Danding lets GMA nominees into SMC

STORY ON PAGE A2

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: www.inq7.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2002 ★★ 34 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 31 ₱15

US uses proxies like RP in drive vs terror

WASHINGTON—The United States is encouraging proxy wars on terrorism in the Philippines, Yemen and Somalia by quietly providing intelligence, training and artillery—while the locals do most, if not all, of the fighting.

US Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld

US USES/ A12

US making ultimate chemical weapon

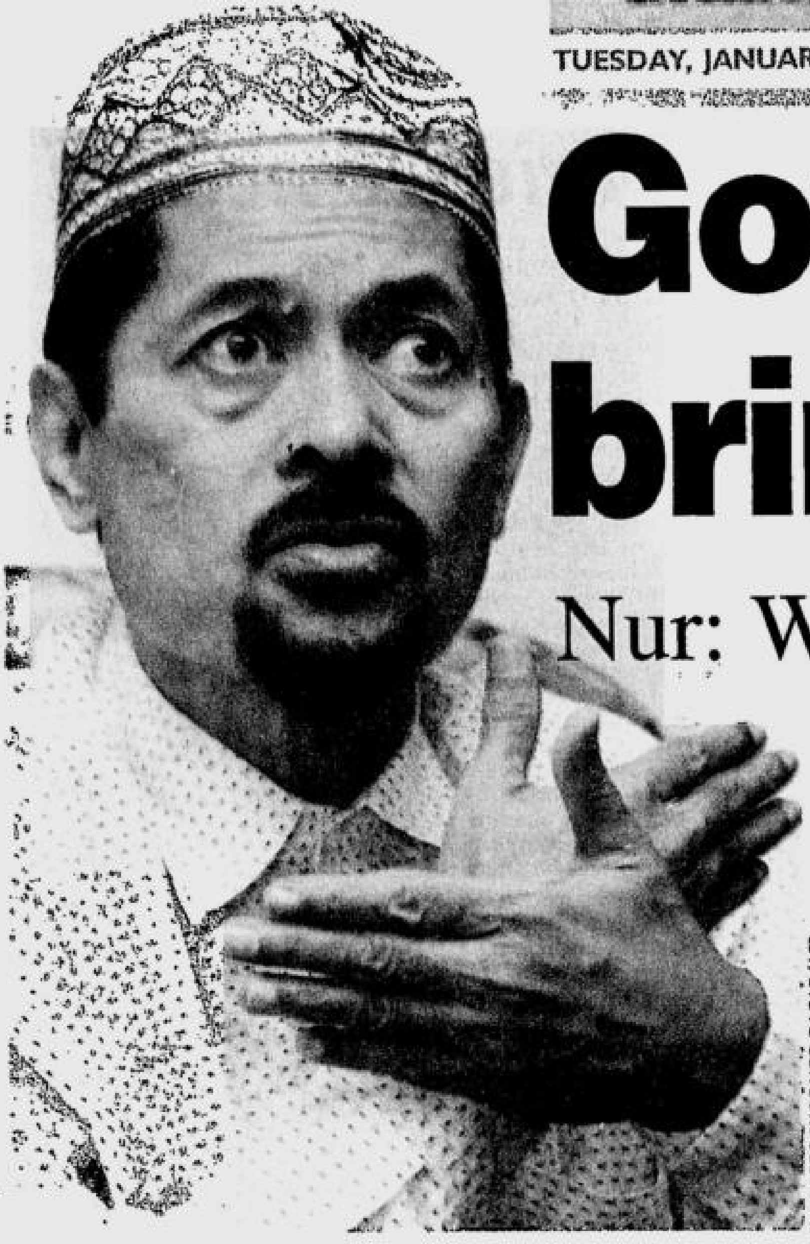
PHILADELPHIA—Remember those "stink bombs" your mischievous classmates would release so your teachers would be forced to stop classes to clear the classroom of the

US MAKING/ A11

KADIRI 'TONG WARFARE NA 'TO!

Gov't pulls surprise, brings Misuari home

Nur: Why are you here, Jess? 'You're going back'


FILE PHOTO BY ROMEO GACAD/AFP

A SHROUD of secrecy attends Malaysia's deportation of Nur Misuari back to the Philippines where he faces rebellion charges. The renegade Moro rebel himself was surprised at his sudden homecoming.

BY TJ BURGONIO

IT surprised him to see a Filipino contingent in the same room where he was.

But a glum Nur Misuari turned cheerful when told that he would be brought home to the Philippines where he faces rebellion charges.

"He was surprised when he saw me. He asked me what I was doing there. And I told him 'you're coming home.' His face lit up," recounted Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on Mindanao affairs, about his encounter with Misuari in a holding room at the Royal Malaysian Air Force in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

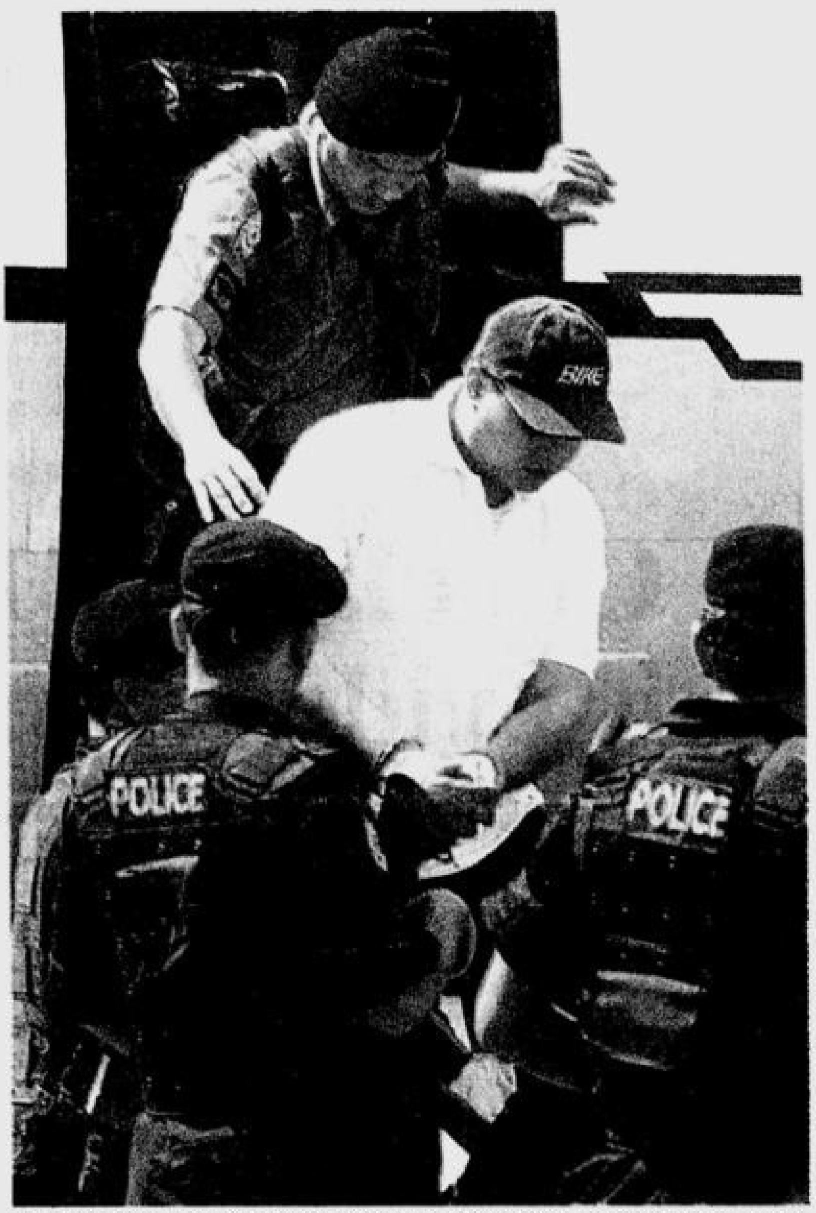
"He was in high spirits. He was in good physical condition. And he looks forward to reuniting with his families (who are still in Kuala Lumpur)," the presidential adviser said of Misuari, who looked healthy but lost some weight while under detention.

Until yesterday, the Moro rebel leader was unaware of his deportation.

Dureza and Director Lucas Managuelod, head of the Philippine National Police Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, flew to Kuala Lumpur on Sunday night to fetch Misuari.

Malaysian authorities turned Misuari and seven of his followers over to Philippine officials yesterday morning, more than a month after they were arrested off an island in Sabah on Nov. 24 last year

GOV'T/ A11


HANDCUFFED Misuari confederates arrive at the Villamor Air Base on board an Air Force Fokker plane from Malaysia and are immediately brought to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan.

ERIK ARAZAS

Media kept in dark on Nur deportation

BY JOFELLE P. TESORIO, MEI MAGSINO AND R. PONTE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
AND NORMAN BORDADORA

LIKE A CLOAK-AND-DAGGER operation, the deportation of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari to the country was kept away from the prying eyes of the media.

Misuari was slated to land at the Villamor Air Base in Pasay City but authorities decided against it because the Philippine Air Force base was easily accessible to reporters.

Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, was instead flown to the San Fernando Air Base in Lipa City on board a C-130 plane and escorted by four helicopters. The plane landed at the farthest portion of the runway yesterday afternoon.

Batangas police provincial director Supt. Rolando Lorenzo said everything happened fast.

"I was notified only at around 2 p.m. to come here (at the base) and when I got here, we couldn't even

MEDIA/ A11

FVR man comes out swinging at GMA

BY CARLITO PABLO AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE GLOVES are off in the proxy war between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Salvador Enriquez Jr., a trusted lieutenant of Ramos and now chair of the People's Consultative Assembly (PCA), has bluntly accused the President of putting her alleged election plans over and above the country's interests.

"Her supposed desire to serve the country is overwhelmed and obscured by her stronger desire to win in 2004," Enriquez said in Filipino during a Sunday radio program hosted by dzMM reporters Anthony Taberna and Gerry Baja. "The 2004 election is far away, yet she's all propaganda."

FVR/ A12

Pinoys needed to rehabilitate Afghan airports

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

FILIPINOS are preferred by the United Nations (UN) to help restore civilian aviation in war-ravaged Afghanistan, the chief of the Air Transportation Office (ATO), Adelberto Yap, said yesterday.

The United Nations wants skilled "volunteers" there, especially in the field of aviation services and airport maintenance, Yap announced in a news briefing Monday.

The United Nations also asked other countries to send their "vol-

PINOYS/ A11

Young suicide pilot had sympathy for Bin Laden

TAMPA, Florida—The 15-year-old student pilot who crashed a small plane into a Florida skyscraper wrote a suicide note expressing sympathy for Osama bin Laden and support for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, police said.

The short, handwritten note found in Charles Bishop's pocket said he acted alone, Tampa police chief Bennie Holder said Sunday.

The high school freshman had no apparent terrorist ties, but "he expressed sympathy toward Osama bin Laden and the events of 9-11," Holder told reporters.

"Bishop can best be described as a young man who had very few friends and was very much a loner," the police chief said. "From his actions we can assume he was a very troubled young man."

Bishop took off Saturday from a St. Petersburg airport without permission, flew across Tampa Bay and briefly entered airspace over MacDill Air Force Base.

Ignoring a Coast Guard helicopter crew that signaled him to land, he crashed the plane into the 28th floor of the 42-story Bank of America building. Bishop was the only fatality.

"He flew the plane deliberately into the building," Holder said but stressed there were no indications Bishop "had any intention of harming anyone else."

The police chief declined to elaborate on the contents of what he characterized was Bishop's suicide note that investigators found on his battered body, still strapped inside the plane's cockpit.

The note, a few paragraphs handwritten on plain white paper, was not addressed to anyone specifically.

Police spokesperson Katie Hughes said Bishop did not mention his family or said goodbye to anyone.

The White House refrained from describing the crash a terrorist attack, repeating a statement released

YOUNG/ A12

'Invite me to your daughter's wedding'

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE WIDOW left her home in Olongapo City at 2 a.m. yesterday, anxious to get to the US Embassy in Manila in time for her 7:30 a.m. appointment.

She left her daughters, 5-year-old Joie and 2-year-old Jerden, in the care of her cousin in Olongapo. She arrived at the embassy at 5 a.m., two-and-a-half hours early, and settled down to wait.

But it turned out a very good day for Eden Sampang, 31, who received US visas for Jerden and herself from Stuart Patt, chief of the US Embassy's non-immigrant visa section.

"Invite me to your daughter's wedding," Eden quoted Patt as telling her with a smile.

In the afternoon, mother and

INVITE/ A12

JOAN BONDOC

US VISA becomes as precious as life itself for Eden Sampang (with Jennifer Montojo at right), mother of Jerden who urgently needs heart surgery at a New York hospital, thanks to the Gift of Life Foundation and a "very accommodating" chief of the visa section.

Illegal hiring cases on the rise again

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

(Second of three parts)

RECRUITMENT VULTURES
An I-TEAM Report

BETWEEN January and October last year, a total of 502 cases of illegal recruitment were reported to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

These involved 1,670 job applicants who were cheated out of more than P67.3 million by "vultures and leeches"—the choice language POEA insiders use to call illegal recruiters.

"Clearly, there has been an increase in the number of cases and victims," noted lawyer Felicitas Bay, head of anti-illegal recruitment at the POEA.

Bay pointed out that for the whole of 2000, only 488 cases involving 1,361 victims of illegal recruitment were received by the POEA.

At the National Bureau of Investigation, the Anti-Illegal Recruitment Division recorded 760 cases during the first 10 months of 2001, up by almost a third over the same period last year.

"The 760 cases have (even) surpassed the total for the year 2000 by 10 percent," said Ferdinand Lavin, head of AIRD. In all of 2000, there were 687 cases. The jump broke the seven-year general decline in the number of cases filed, which started in 1994. At the POEA, the spike in the number of cases came after two years of steady decline.

Illegal recruiters have defrauded thousands of job seekers of more than P310 million over the last eight years. But POEA chief Rosalinda Baldoz aired doubts whether this experience would stop Filipinos from seeking overseas employment opportunities in the future.

"The idea of working abroad will most likely become more widespread," Baldoz said, citing the country's economic woes and the Macapagal administration's prediction of tough times ahead.

Lawyer Gonzalo Duque, POEA deputy administrator during the Ramos administration, has the same outlook. He cautioned that "with the hard times, the competition to get work outside the Philippines can become fierce."

"Certainly, the numbers tend to increase. The worldwide economic condition might set off a large-scale movement of Filipino workers," said

ILLEGAL/ A12

ANG LAKAS...
NYA!

SMC MODUS VIVENDI

Danding lets gov't men in

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Gerald Lacuarta

GOVERNMENT nominees will now sit in all "crucial" committees of the San Miguel Corp., the first time they have been allowed to do so, after an apparent deal was concluded to ease public approval for the $540-million Kirin Brewery buy-in into SMC.

SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. has agreed to the setup after the government dropped its opposition to Cojuangco's voting share agreement with Kirin as part of a deal in which the Japanese brewery will purchase 15 percent of the food and beverage conglomerate for $540 million.

According to the terms of the agreement, Kirin will vote its shares with Cojuangco for the next five years.

Malacañang is believed to want to settle any lingering doubts about the SMC-Kirin deal before the state visit of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who will be arriving on Jan. 9 and leaving the next day.

But while it welcomed the Kirin investment, Malacañang was concerned that the government's 27-percent shares at the SMC, which it is holding in trust for the country's coconut farmers, would not be diluted.

The shares, which were allegedly acquired by Cojuangco using the disputed coco levy funds, have been sequestered by the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Three-way deal

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said last week that instead of a bilateral agreement between Cojuangco and Kirin, Malacañang wanted a "tripartite agreement" with the government as the third spoke.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas, who chairs the committee reviewing the Kirin deal, said this would ensure that the government would maintain its strategic hold on the conglomerate while the ownership dispute on the sequestered shares was being resolved.

But in a news briefing yesterday, Tiglao said the government has dropped the "tripartite agreement" proposal.

COJUANGCO

"What's being discussed now is how to... reflect the government's equity there," Tiglao said.

He said the Cojuangco camp was "very amenable" to a government representative being allowed to sit in all the major committees, such as compensation and bidding.

"In every crucial committee there will be some government representation," he said.

The government's 27 percent share entitles it to 5 seats in the SMC's 15-man board of directors.

The state-run pension funds, the Social Security System, and the Government Service Insurance System, have a 5 percent and 7 percent share, respectively, which entitle them to one board seat each.

No watchdogs

Tiglao said it was the first time that the government would be sitting in the SMC committees.

"They will not act as a watchdog. The aim is for SMC to be as transparent as possible... and Mr. Cojuangco is not opposing it," he said.

The PCGG will choose the representatives who will sit in the committees.

The PCGG claims that Cojuangco bought the 20-percent shares that he is personally claiming and the 27-percent sequestered shares in the SMC using funds from the coco levy which was imposed on coconut farmers by decree by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Cojuangco, the Marcos-appointed as administrator of the fund, is facing a number of forfeiture cases involving properties allegedly acquired using the levy funds.

A Supreme Court ruling last month declared the levy funds to be public in character, paving the way for the government to take control of SMC and the 94.9 percent-sequestered United Coconut Planters Bank.

Tiglao said the arrangement was not an out-of-court settlement with Cojuangco.

Tiglao said Cojuangco respected the government's position to pursue the forfeiture cases against him that have been pending before the Sandiganbayan for the past 15 years.

"We have committed that... the legal (issues) will be delinked" from the running of the company. Mr. Cojuangco is amenable to that," he said.

'Concession' to Danding

In a related development, farmers yesterday accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of granting another political concession to Cojuangco for allegedly allowing the displacement of 30,000 peasant families by a cassava plantation project of the SMC in Isabela province.

Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, said part of the President's two-day tour to the North was made to inaugurate the SMC project, which covers 11 towns in Isabela.

Mariano accused the Army's 5th Infantry Division and the 45th Infantry Battalion of imposing hamletting, military clearing and checkpoints in the area in preparation for the President's visit.

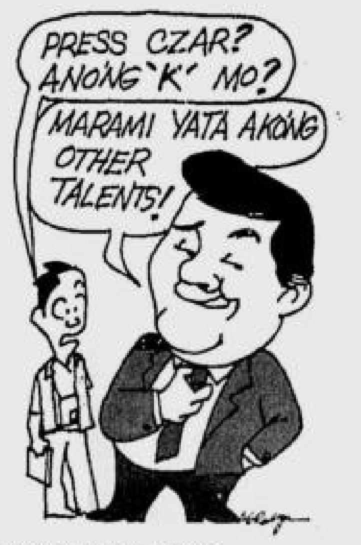
"The President's visit to the North is coupled with grave human rights violations," Mariano said.

Malacañang has announced that the President would meet with officers of the Army's 5th Infantry Division in Gamu, Isabela. Among the areas she will visit are the new towns of Dinapigue, Divilacan and Maconacon.

But Mariano said Ms Macapagal is also scheduled to inaugurate the SMC's cassava plantation, a joint venture project between the SMC and the Isabela provincial government represented by the Valley Planters Development Cooperative (Vapdeco).

Press czar: No experience needed

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
and Cynthia D. Balana


PRESS CZAR? ANONG 'K' MO?
MARAMI YATA AKONG OTHER TALENTS!

MALACAÑANG'S new "press czar" would be the first to admit he does not have a media background.

But what Manuel Sanchez, press undersecretary for broadcast, has going for him are his "people skills" and "common sense."

These, he said, are what he needs to perform his new and powerful job as "chief press coordinator."

"The job involves coordination (among government offices). It needs people skills and common sense. I may not have been in the professional media, but I have a lot of contacts and experience with media," Sanchez told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Sanchez was appointed press undersecretary for broadcast on Oct. 1. Two months later, he was named chief media coordinator by virtue of Memorandum Order No. 49 dated Dec. 13 and signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Why not Cabrera?

Palace reporters wondered why the job went to Sanchez and not to Press Secretary Noel Cabrera, a veteran newspaper editor.

Sanchez is a lawyer by profession. In the two years before he joined the Macapagal administration, he had his own law firm, the Peña Sanchez Lacson and Mison Law Office.

Sanchez was also associated with former President Fidel Ramos, who appointed him interior undersecretary for local government in August 1996. He held the post until Ramos stepped down in June 1998.

Sanchez, however, was more known for his brief stint in Congress as the representative of the first district of Rizal from June 1992 to April 1994.

His three-year term was cut short when the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) booted him out because he was found to be an American citizen. Records showed he had become a naturalized American in May 1985.

He took the bar in the United States in 1974 and was a public defender in New York for 14 years until he decided to return to the Philippines in 1989.

He told the INQUIRER yesterday that he regained his Filipino citizenship in July 1995.

He said he took his oath of allegiance before former solicitor general Raul Goco.

Palace insiders said, however, that Sanchez still acts like a congressman. They said he continues to move around with bodyguards.

Other Palace officials said they had a hard time understanding how the powerful job of chief media coordinator went to Sanchez.

Defender

The former congressman has found an ally, however, in the President's personal publicist, Dante Ang.

Ang, publisher of the Manila Times, came out yesterday with a column in the paper justifying Memo No. 49 and Sanchez's role.

He also defended Sanchez from the criticism he got when he chided Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo on national television for "contradicting" the President's stand on the San Miguel Corp.-Kirin Brewery deal.

Ang said Sanchez did the right thing because Marcelo had gone against the President's policy statement welcoming Kirin's entry into San Miguel.

Palace insiders said Memo No. 49 was Ang's brainchild.

Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta yesterday urged the President to scrap the order putting up the press "clearinghouse," to do away with the ongoing confusion.

Oreta's statement came after Malacañang admitted that some Cabinet secretaries have been questioning Memo No. 49.

Coconut farmers feuding

By Christine A. Gaylican

JUST weeks after the Supreme Court finally resolved the unquestionable public ownership of the coconut levy funds, small coconut farmers' organizations are fighting over who should sit on the board of the United Coconut Planters Bank to reclaim P130 billion of the funds.

The leadership of over 2 million Filipino coconut farmers nationwide is now divided as ideology and pragmatism collide, amid the continuing drop in copra prices and poverty in the countryside.

The 50,000-strong National Council of Small Coconut Farmers' Organizations (NCSCFO) has denounced the inclusion of farmer representative Efren Villaseñor to the new UCPB board.

Villaseñor claims to represent some 1.2 million coconut farmers under the Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magbubukid sa Niyugan.

NCSFO spokesperson Johannes Labay said in a press conference yesterday that Villaseñor had ceased to be their representative after he allegedly agreed to enter into a compromise deal with controversial businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco who is accused of using the levy funds to buy various businesses, including the UCPB.

Villaseñor was one of seven names that President Macapagal-Arroyo nominated to the 14-member UCPB board. The others are Edward Go, Francisco del Rosario, R. Arceo, Joey Faustino, Vicente Fabe, Elen Osias and Presidential Commission on Good Government Commissioner Ruben Carranza.

The rest of the 14 has yet to be named.

Small coconut farmer groups urged the President to make sure that her next appointees should be "real" representatives of the small coconut farmers.

Villaseñor said in an interview that the rival group has forgotten their real purpose, which is to alleviate the situation of the coconut farmers and help the dying coconut industry.

"This is not just a moral issue. We just want an immediate result because coconut farmers are suffering in the countryside, copra prices are down to P2.50 per kilo from a high of P9," said Villaseñor.

He lamented that even the nongovernment organizations, which used to pull their act together, have been causing the disarray.

"We appreciate what they have done for us, but this time they should allow the farmers to speak for themselves," Villasenor said.

PLUNDER TRIAL

Check for ₱189M is evidence vs Erap

By Volt Contreras

PROSECUTORS in the Estrada plunder trial yesterday produced what could be the first damning documentary evidence against ousted President Joseph Estrada—a P189,7-million check allegedly representing his commission from a series of stock market transactions in 1999.

The prosecutors were also able to make a witness testify that the check was issued to comply with a "condition imposed" by Estrada for the transactions to push through.

But out of court, questions arose whether the landmark trial would continue to be heard in the Sandiganbayan's Third Division, after both defense and prosecution panels welcomed the creation of a "special division" to hear the Estrada cases.

Curiously, the Supreme Court called all chairpersons of the five Sandiganbayan divisions to a meeting late afternoon yesterday.

The meeting's agenda was not immediately known, but Fourth Division chair Narciso Nario surmised the creation of a special division would be discussed.

In yesterday's hearing, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño presented an International Exchange Bank check dated Nov. 5, 1999, and had it authenticated by prosecution witness Willie Ng Ocier, vice president of gaming firm Belle Corp.

Zuño produced the check in relation to one of the sub-components of the plunder charge that accuses Estrada of pocketing P189.7 million in commissions from the sale of Belle shares to two state pension funds in October 1999.

In his continuing direct testimony yesterday, Ocier said that prior to the stock sale, he had a series of talks with Estrada pal and Belle board member Jaime Dichaves about the need to find buyers for Belle's 650 million unsubscribed shares to help ease the company's debt problems.

Ocier said he had little success finding foreign buyers for the shares while Dichaves, who went looking for local buyers, reported there was "a good chance" government financial institutions would buy the shares.

The GFIs referred to were the Government Service Insurance System and the Social Security System.

Ocier said that Dichaves told him "he had taken up the matter" of selling the shares to the GSIS and the SSS with President Estrada.

"He basically told me that President Estrada had already spoken with GSIS chair Federico Pascual and SSS chair Carlos Arellano," Ocier said.

Ocier said that after a few weeks, Dichaves told him the sale might push through but "there's a condition that I must give a commission."

"According to Dichaves, the condition was imposed by President Estrada," Ocier said.

Ocier said it was Dichaves who gave the figure of P200 million for the commission. This was for the sale of the 650 million shares at P3 per share, for a total approaching P2 billion.

All along, defense lawyers had objected to Ocier being allowed to continue with his narrative, saying his testimony was mere "hearsay" or quotes from Dichaves.

But the court, with Associate Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro as acting chair, agreed to hear Ocier's complete testimony but only in the context of Ocier recalling his conversations with Dichaves.

Ocier's statements against Estrada are not to be taken as the "truth" until the prosecutors could come up with the supporting proof, De Castro explained.

Erap bash hit

A MILITANT group has urged the return of ousted President Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, to the military facility at Sta. Rosa, Laguna, after the two reportedly held a lavish party and even played *mahjong* at their detention suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

On that day, Dec. 28, the young Estrada, former mayor of San Juan, also hosted a press conference at the hospital to promote his new movie, "Walang Iwanan, Peksman."

"The Estradas have not stopped slandering and offending the people by flaunting their ill-gotten wealth and absurd lifestyle," said Gerry Albert Corpuz of the militant fisherfolk group, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya).

Pamalakaya yesterday called on the Sandiganbayan to order the transfer of the Estradas to their original detention facility at Sta. Rosa.

Corpuz said the Estradas held the Christmas party at the VMMC reception hall for the staff of the San Juan municipal hall.

Father and son reportedly gave out generous raffle prizes that included two round-trip tickets to Hong Kong, 30 color TV sets, 20 microwave ovens, 20 refrigerators, 10 videoke microphones and cash. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Court upholds Photokina deal

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE MULTIBILLION-PESO consortium Photokina Marketing Corp. yesterday scored a victory against Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo after the court ordered the Comelec to honor its P6.5-billion contract with Photokina.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court also barred the Comelec from finding alternatives to the voters' registration and identification system (VRIS) while the case is pending in court.

In a seven-page resolution, Judge Luisa Quijano-Padilla said the Comelec had yet to "adduce evidence to prove the invalidity of the award to (Photokina)" compelling the court to uphold the notice of award to the firm.

Padilla said Photokina has a "perfected contract" with the Comelec for the VRIS, which is being "threatened" by certain pronouncements of Benipayo.

Benipayo, who assumed the Comelec helm in February last year, had shelved the modernization program approved during the time of his predecessor, Harriet Demetriou.

The Comelec chair is instead proposing a new and cheaper computerization project dubbed the Triple EX Vision. He has written the Department of Budget and Management canceling the budget for the VRIS.

"These acts of chairman Benipayo are in derogation of the vested right of the petitioner over the VRIS project and said acts should be enjoined pendente lite so as not to render subsequent findings of this court moot," Padilla said.

The QC court, however, denied Photokina's motion for a preliminary mandatory injunction, saying such was issued only if there was an "urgent and permanent necessity to prevent serious damage."

Padilla had also ordered Photokina to post a P30 million bond to answer for whatever damages the writ of preliminary prohibitory injunction may cause.

Photokina received the court's resolution, dated Dec. 19, only on Saturday, said George Balagtas, Photokina senior vice president for corporate affairs.

Balagtas also warned Comelec executive secretary Mamasapunod Aguam that it would ask the court to cite him for contempt if he continues to indicate that the Comelec would be acquiring other machines for its modernization project.

Travel ban sought on Unitrust execs

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has asked the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to stop the departure of Japanese investor Genta Ogami and 10 other officers of the closed Unitrust Development Bank.

The request was made by BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo.

Unitrust, a small savings bank, declared a bank holiday and was closed by the BSP's Monetary Board last Friday. The central bank had appointed the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. as the bank's receiver.

Ogami also owns the pyramiding firm G. Cosmos Phils.

Also included in the request for a hold order were Motohiko Hagisaka, Fujunori Tada, Hiyoshi Haneda, Unitrust president Jose Apolinario Jr., Winefredo Capilitan, Daniel Quilatan, Elmer Magpantay, Marcelo Vasquez Jr., Evelyn Mansit and Lorena Oba.

SC orders tollways to explain increases

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court Third Division yesterday ordered the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) and the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to explain in writing within three days why they are increasing the toll rates at the South and North Luzon expressways, and the Skyway.

Division chair Jose R. Melo asked the PNCC and the TRB to submit their "comment" on a motion seeking to stop the collection of the new rates filed by lawyer Ceferino Padua on Dec. 27.

They are to submit the comment not later than 12 noon of Thursday, the resolution said.

PNCC and TRB officials, or their lawyers, were also ordered to appear at a court hearing on Friday.

Padua filed a taxpayer's suit seeking the issuance of a TRO against the allegedly "arbitrary" toll rate increases on Dec. 27.

The next day, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita asked the Parañaque Regional Trial Court to stop the increases as they had been approved by the TRB allegedly without a public hearing.

'Exhorbitant'

He said the provisional increases were "exorbitant, onerous, oppressive and unconscionable."

On Jan. 3, Padua filed a "supplemental urgent motion for a TRO" after the PNCC and the TRB went ahead with the collection of the new toll rates despite a motion pending with the high court.

Claiming that the new rates "smack of large-scale swindling of motorists," Padua pleaded with the SC to provide injunctive relief to commuters plying the expressways and the Skyway.

Padua also asked the SC to declare as null and void the TRB order that authorized the collection of the new toll rates for the next six months, as well as reverse Makati Judge Santiago Ranada's decision to dismiss his petition for a TRO.

In an unsigned advisory on Dec. 21, the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC), which operates the South Luzon Tollways (SLT) and the Skyway, said it would start collecting new fees starting Jan. 1, until June 30.

The SLT covers the stretch from Magallanes, Makati, to Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Padua's motion also covered the North Luzon Tollways (NLT), which run from Balintawak, Quezon City, to Barangay Tabang in Guiguinto, Bulacan.

The NLT, however, is being maintained by another franchisee, which also implemented new increased toll rates.

'Illegal'

Padua said raising the toll fees was illegal as it allegedly violated Rule 5, Section 5 of the TRB's "Rules of Practice and Procedure."

Under the rules, the TRB order for a provisional adjustment rate has to be published for three consecutive weeks in a general-circulation newspaper not later than Nov. 30, for it to be enforced on the first day of January, said Padua. He said he was not aware of any publication of the new rates.

He also noted the "stealthy" timing of the order, made during an almost two-week official holiday, which prevented those opposed to it from taking steps to stop it, he said.

Moreover, Padua pointed out, it is the Philippine National Construction Corp., the franchise owner of the expressways and the Skyway, and not CMMTC, which is the investor, that has the legal personality to ask for any provisional increase.

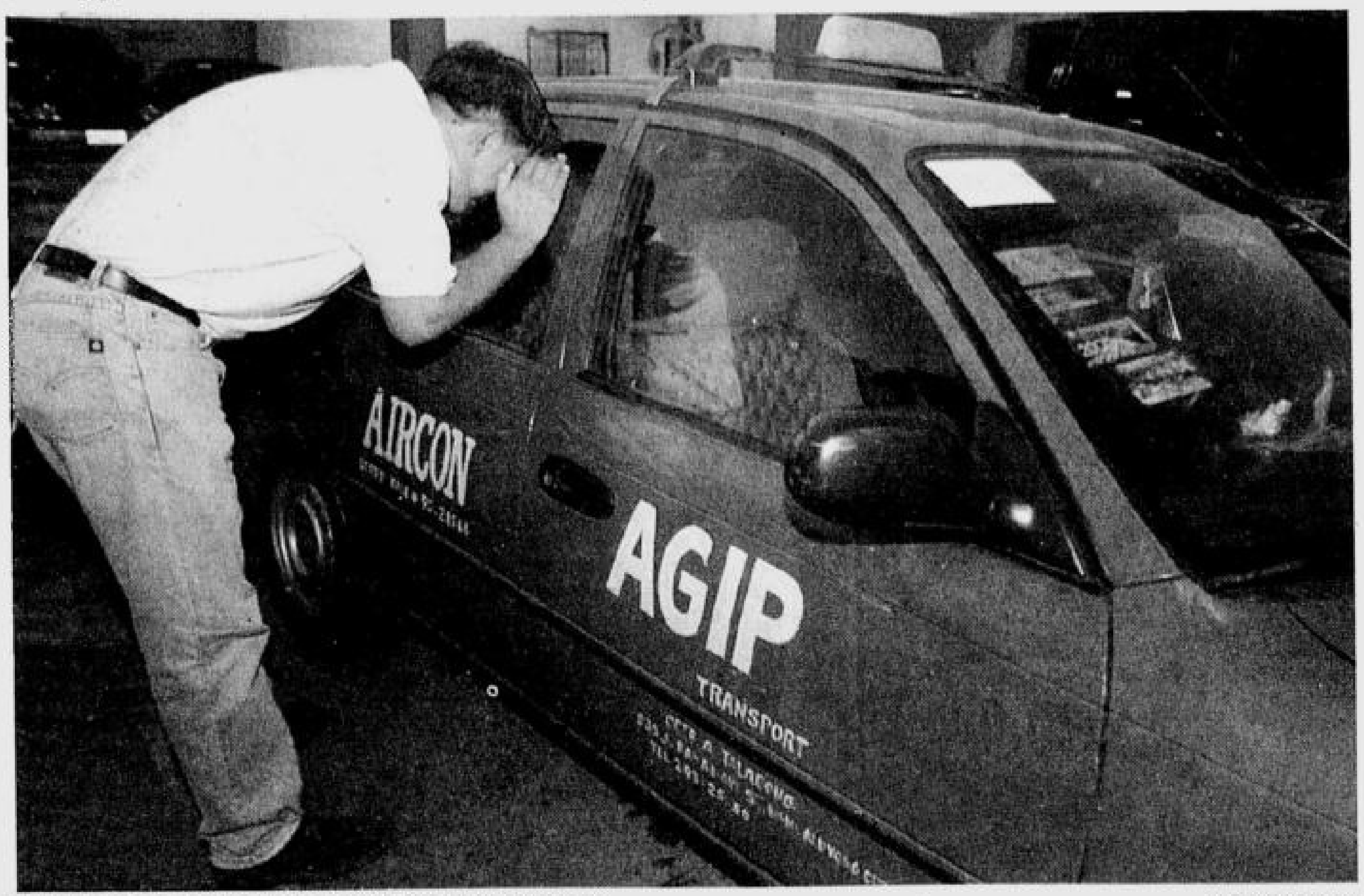
He said the TRB had no jurisdiction over a non-franchisee like the CMMTC, according to the provisions of Presidential Decree 1112.

Padua also claimed that the CMMTC had just recently withdrawn its petition for a provisional authority to increase the toll rates "which the TRB (through TRB Director Jaime S. Dumlao Jr.) had in fact granted."

No hearing

Despite the CMMTC's withdrawal of its application, the TRB—allegedly without notice or without holding a hearing on the issue—approved the provisional increase.

Padua said the TRB on its own accord can issue an order for any provisional increase. But it should be approved by the TRB board en banc and not by Dumlao, the TRB director.



THE BLOODSTAINED taxicab at the NBI headquarters. VAL HANDUMON

NIDA SLAY PROBE

Bloodstained cab held

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents were baffled yesterday after they found bloodstains on the backseat of the taxicab that brought three women to actress Nida Blanca's house on the morning the actress was killed.

An NBI source also said that one of the three female passengers, who were allegedly picked up at the Atlanta Center Building, was "tomboyish."

The source said the Agip Transport taxi, a red Toyota Corolla (with plate number PVK 714), is now under NBI custody. He said bloodstains were still visible at the center portion of the backseat even after the seat covers were removed.

"If the blood is Blanca's, this would be a major development," the source said.

He added that a blood sample was taken from the taxi's backseat and it is being subjected to DNA testing.

The three women allegedly flagged down the taxi at the Atlanta Center Building in San Juan, where Blanca's body was found, around 2 a.m. of Nov. 7. They ordered the taxi driver to take them to 28 Nathan Street in White Plains, which is Blanca's address.

The taxi driver said one of the women looked "tomboyish," the other looked like a maid, and the last was a young woman, around 16 years old, the source said.

He said that if the blood is proven to be that of the veteran movie actress, the driver "could even become a suspect."

Blanca was last seen alive around 5 p.m. on Nov. 6 while she was leaving the Movie Television Review and Classification Board office at the Atlanta Center building. She was found dead inside her car at the building's car park 15 hours later.

The NBI is trying to figure out what happened to Blanca during those 15 hours.

The source said the taxi was taken sometime last week after several weeks of paperwork. The NBI also caught up with the taxi driver on Jan. 2.

The bureau invited at first another Agip taxi driver but it turned out he was not driving the taxi on the morning of Nov. 7.

Blanca's body was found inside her Nissan sedan at the Atlanta Center parking lot around 8:15 a.m. on Nov. 7.

Palace asked to call off Marcelo arrest order

By Carlito Pablo

MARCELO

THE LAWYER of beleaguered businessman Pacifico "Pic" Marcelo III yesterday urged Malacañang to "call off" the order of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation to arrest his' client.

Victor de la Serna insisted that Marcelo is a Filipino and not an American citizen as the BID is claiming.

"But even assuming that Mr. Marcelo is really an American citizen, what grievous crime has he committed that he is now being hunted down like a terrorist?" De la Serna said in a statement.

Marcelo may not be a terrorist but he has earned the ire of the Palace after he accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of having demanded control over one of his telecommunications companies.

Marcelo testified before the Senate last year on the President's alleged attempt to grab from him majority shares in the Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc.

The immigration bureau had said that foreign nationals like Marcelo are prohibited by law from owning telecommunications companies.

BID Commissioner Andrea Domingo ordered the arrest of Marcelo after he failed to submit documents proving he has reverted to his Filipino citizenship.

"The problem is that Commissioner Domingo wants to arrest my client first before giving him the opportunity to prove his Philippine citizenship," De la Serna said.

De la Serna earlier said that Marcelo can only be apprehended after the BID has issued a final ruling on the deportation case initiated against the businessman..

CANADA & SINGAPORE
Live, Work, & Study Legally!!!
With Permanent Residence
FREE CONSULTATION
BENEFITS for Immigrant over Live-In Care Giver
- Immigrant Visa & later Citizenship status for whole family
- Free health care & education, monthly children allowance
- Better career development with at least threefold salary
- Free access to USA, another career chance
- High quality lifestyle & low living cost
- All kinds of social benefits & assistance

For Inquiries Contact:
TECHNIC SYSTEM EXPRESS & SERVICES, INC.
2/f FETA Bldg 1623 J. Bocobo St. Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos : 523-6009/ 523-5847/ 523-7400 Fax No.: 303-6500
Email Address techsystem@edsamail.com.ph
We're Serious About Emigration-What About You? For a Best Future!

COPIERS
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
P12,000. ONLY LIQUID TYPE SAVIN 780 220 V, 60Hz
P16,000. ONLY POWDER TYPE FT 3320 220 V, 60Hz
P46,500. ONLY BRAND NEW DIGITAL COPIER + PRINTER 9912-A
100% GUARANTEED! KATUN TONERS & PARTS FOR USE IN SHARP, CANON, RICOH, MINOLTA, TOSHIBA, SELEX, MITA, GESTETNER, RISO, KONICA, ETC.
NOW AVAILABLE: LEASE TO OWN / RENTAL (We Accept Trade-in)
COPYTRADE®
Copytrade Bldg. 550 Mf Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Nr. NU)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56 • 781-3472 • 749-8216
Prov'l Outlets: Cabanatuan: (0919)7090934 • Cebu: 253-2402
Tarlac: (0918)-6738497
CHEAPER REFILL INK AND CARTRIDGES FOR MOST COMPUTER PRINTER MODELS

Is your computer driving you CRAZY??!!
- On-site computer service
- Virus Removal
- Preventive Maintenance

PCMed COMPUTER TECHNICIANS
Call our hotline! 303-8888
• FAST • RELIABLE • QUALIFIED • AFFORDABLE

ALSO OFFERS: PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES AS LOW AS 30 cents/COPY
RICOH COPIERS
WE TRANSACT 24 HOURS/DAY FROM MONDAY TO SUNDAY
Liquid Type P 12,000 only
Powder Type P 16,000 only
AVAILABLE LEASE TO OWN/RENTAL
KAI GEN. MDSE. Tel.: 716-6110 / 780-0302 / 780-0304
(INFRONT OF PUP ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE BLDG.)
GC-1 BLDG 3 GSIS METROHOMES PUREZA STA MESA MANILA
AUTHORIZED DEALERS
Metro Manila Caloocan 367-6872 • LUZON Baguio (074) 4435914 or 3042946 • Tarlac (045) 8000409Lipa (043) 3122676 • Lucena 042 7107966 • Daet 054-7215829 • Naga 472-0494 • Iriga 054-6552024 • Legaspi 052-8203345 • Masbate 056-3332793 • VISAYAS: Cebu 032-4123697 • Catbalogan 055-2512206 • Calbayog 055-2093322 • Tacloban (053) 325-3441 • Iloilo 033-3297828 • MINDANAO: Pagadian (062) 214-4551 • Davao 082-2226824 • Gen Santos 083-3020743 • Cagayan de Oro (088) 7313850 Cotabato (064) 421-6239 • Iligan 063-2215492

Begin a new life
Cure your bad breath
No need to consult with medical experts. The cause of bad breath has been diagnosed and pinpointed.
Therabreath™ System is the solution to the problem. It is guaranteed to cure *bad breath, bitter/sour taste, phlegm in throat, pasty saliva, awful morning breath.*
Free Delivery w/in Metro Mla.- Moneyback Guarantee
Call: Norville Fresh Breatheraphy Center
890-8380; 895-5532; 895-6775

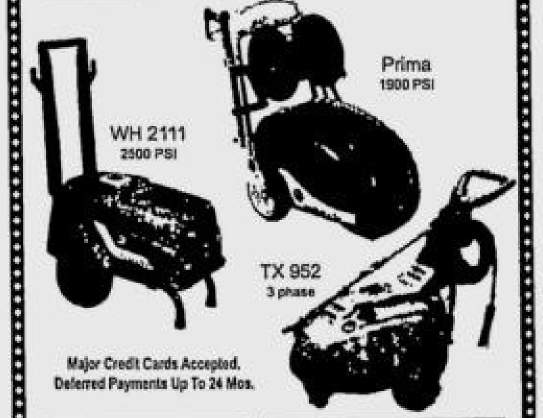
Diamonds
We are BUYING loose DIAMONDS and BIG DIAMOND JEWELRIES
Any Quantity! Any Quality!
Above 1 carat-to any size!
Confidential and comfort are promised!
Feel SAFE. Have NO RISK. Get CASH Payment!
- We can help you redeem your items.
- Special arrangement for regular suppliers.
- Optional: High Pawning Value for Diamonds.

Diamond Sources Pawnshop, Inc. is a related company to one of the biggest diamond exporters in the world. Therefore, Diamond Sources has the best outlet for your diamonds and will be able to pay you high price for your diamonds!
GET THE MAXIMUM VALUE FOR YOUR DIAMONDS! SELL TO US!
Big and VERY BIG transactions are most welcome.
Diamond Sources Pawnshop, Inc. Mandaluyong Branch 111 Lulu Mandaluyong City
Monday-Friday by appointment
Tel : 636-2815
Fax : 632-9806
Pager : 1277-89270

DOUBLE CHECK DIABETES
(SIMPLY AND ACCURATELY)
- Blood Glucose Monitoring System
- Reads MMOL/L or MG/DL
- Easy To Operate

PRESTIGE GLUCOSE METER
fareastmedical.net
SM MANILA 5TH FLR. 484-1471
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061
FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
SM MEGAMALL 5th Flr., Bldg. A 635-04-36
SM FAIRVIEW Basement 418-75-40
SM NORTH EDSA Car Park Plaza 453-3326
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 800 40-93
GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN Shoppesville 721-31 87
CEBU 262-32-39

WE BUY DIAMONDS FOR CASH
3ct - 20ct Low Color < P. Yellowish
International buyers pay top cash prices for suitable stones.
Old cuts also acceptable
January 6 - 10, 2002 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Richmonde Hotel Business Centre
21 San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel. 638-7777 or cell 0919-7096616



DESIGNED TO LAST
INDUSTRIAL COLD SERIES
Major Credit Cards Accepted.
Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
FROM THE NO. 1 IN HIGH PRESSURE WASHERS
With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Exclusively Distributed by: CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL, INC.
Main Office: Kimika Bldg., 1851 M. Orosa St., Malate, Mla.
Tel. Nos.: 5244472 • 5240529 Trunkline: 5245290
Quezon City Br.: 646 Quezon Ave., Q.C. across Sto. Domingo Church
Bet G Araneta Ave. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

Flight Holidays
Tour Packages...tour with us and see the difference!
"Let those that seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee." Psalms 40:16
ASIAN PACKAGES
Hong Kong 4D/3N $210
Hong Kong + 1 Nite Macau via PR $255
Hong Kong + 1 Nite Shenzhen 4D/3N via Cebu Pacific 5J $198
Singapore 4D/3N via PR $288
Bangkok 4D/3N via TG $245
Macau Package 4D/3N via NX $278
Kuala Lumpur Package 3D/2N via MH $360
Saigon Package 3D/2N via PR $308
Seoul Package 4D/3N via PR $540
SPECIAL PACKAGES
Singapore + Malaysia + Indonesia 4D/3N via PR $345
Singapore + Kuala Lumpur 5D/4N via PR $365
Bangkok + Pattaya 4D/3N $288
TICKET ONLY

Hong Kong	$210	Sydney	$630	New York	$830
Bangkok	$230	Tokyo	$415	Vancouver	$850
Singapore	$240	LAX	$750	Toronto	$850
Taipei	$315	San Francisco	$780		

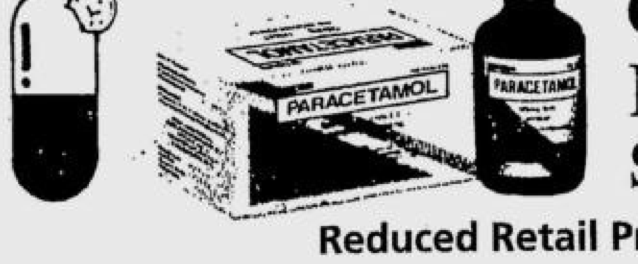
Local tours and Domestic Tickets available
FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & TOURS
Rm. 202 Doña Mercedes Bldg., San Andres St., Malate, Manila
[illegible]

Strictly Performing Arts...
Actor Training
Teacher Program
Basic Acting
Free Demo Class Jan 26
Classes Feb 4
Instructor: Ana Valdes-Lim
Juilliard School
Joe Papp's NY Shakespeare Co.
Author,"Workshop-Manual for Acting"
Philippine Playhouse, Inc.
879-8230 / 0917-899-8158
email: philippine_playhouse@yahoo.com
www.geocites.com/Philippine_playhouse

The 24 years of Partnership is Back!
FAIRBANKS MORSE
PENTAIR PUMP GROUP
and
PROS M. YLAGAN
STARTING JANUARY 1, 2002
PLEASE CONTACT FOR COMPETITIVE PUMP PRICES
Exclusive Philippine Distributors:
PUMP EQUIP & SYSTEMS LTD., CO.
TEL. : 633-2642
TELEFAX: 631-3810/6457611
E-mail: prosbee@pworld.net.ph

BRUSH CUTTER
STIHL FS 55 FS 85
NEW
SAW CHAIN APPLICABLE FOR BAMBOO CUTTING
STIHL 023C
MISTBLOWER HEALTH & AGRICULTURE APPLICATION
• DENGUE CONTROL • GARBAGE DISPOSAL ETC.
• FRUIT AND VEGETABLE FARM • ORCHARD
STIHL SR 400

LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN CARE EQUIPMENT
Made in Germany
AVAILABLE AT SELECTED DEALERS NATIONWIDE
Six (6) Months Warranty • Spare Parts Availability Guaranteed
DMi DEUTSCHE
Exclusive Philippine Distributor No. 10 Tagdalit St. Manresa, Q.C. e-mail: deutsche@tri-isys.com
Tel. nos.: 330-2116 / 17 • 364-1290 • 413-1566 / 67 • 416-5434
Fax nos.: 330-2118 • 365-4473
STIHL®
working for you...



DLI GENERICS
QUALITY NA MURA PA SA BOTICA
Reduced Retail Price

	Price		Price
Ambroxol Syrup 30 mg/5mL, 60 mL	61.00	Cloxacillin Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	71.00
Amoxicillin Drops, 10 ml	40.00	Diclofenac Sod. Film Coated Tablet 50 mg	4.70
Amoxicillin Capsule 250 mg	3.40	Erythromycin Tab 500 mg	12.00
Amoxicillin Capsule 500 mg	5.00	Glibenclamide Tablet 5 mg	2.60
Amoxicillin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	65.00	Isoniazid Tablet 300 mg	1.10
Bromhexine HCl Syrup 4mg/5 mL, 60 ml	45.00	Mefenamic Acid Tablet 500 mg	3.00
Bromhexine HCl Tablet 8 mg	1.40	Multi-Vitamin Syrup 60 mL	56.00
Carbocisteine (SCMC) Capsule 500 mg	4.20	Multi-Vitamin Tablet	3.00
Carbocisteine Syrup (SCMC) 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	46.00	Paracetamol Drops, 15 mL	31.00
Cephalexin Capsule 500 mg	11.00	Paracetamol Syrup 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	33.00
Cefalexin Drops 100 mg/mL, 10 mL	58.00	Paracetamol 500 mg	0.80
Cephalexin Suspension 250 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	103.00	Rifampicin Suspension 100 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	68.00
Chloramphenicol Suspension 125 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	63.00	Rifampicin Capsule 450 mg	10.70
Co-trimoxazole Suspension (TM-40 mg, SMZ-200 mg) 60 mL	48.00	Salbutamol Syrup 2 mg/5 mL, 60 mL	37.00
Co-trimoxazole Tablet (TM-160 mg, SMZ-800 mg)	5.00	Salbutamol Tablet 2 mg	1.40
Cloxacillin Capsule 500 mg	8.00	Vitamins B1 + B6 + B12 Tablet	2.00

Member: Generic Association of the Phil., Available nationwide.
Address: 3rd Floor Lawyers Coop. Bldg., 459 Quezon Ave., Quezon City, MetroManila
Tel. Nos.: 711-3933, 741-7763, 712-4990, 741-9203, 743-1620, 743-1626 FAX: 712-4921, 743-1622
E-Mail: pacific@DLI-Generics.com| Complete FACTORY PRICES available at WEBSITE: www.DLI-Generics.com
DEALERS/DISTRIBUTORS ARE WELCOME

SENATE TUG-OF-WAR

Majority to raid minority ranks

By R. Nazareno and N. Bordadora

THE MAJORITY bloc in the Senate could end up with more members after at least two senators from the opposition might be convinced to switch sides. This would give the majority a 15-9 lead over the minority from its current 13-11 advantage.

This was revealed yesterday by Senate finance committee chair John Osmeña, who called on Senate President Franklin Drilon to try and convince some opposition senators to jump over to the majority.

"We will try to convince two (opposition senators) so the majority would be larger," Osmeña said, without naming anyone specifically.

The present 13-11 count is a slim lead that, Osmeña said, "does not allow the Senate leadership to really make plans and assert itself."

Drilon, who arrived from a 10-day working visit to the United States on Jan. 4, said, "The opposition may be in for some surprises," after reporters sought his reaction to recent reports the opposition was planning a Senate "coup."

Drilon, however, refused to reveal details of the "surprises" during his first press conference for the year yesterday.

"If (opposition senators) apply (to join the majority), of course we will accept them," he said.

Senate minority leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had hinted last week of a Senate coup with the transfer of "at least two disenchanted" majority senators to the minority.

The following day, a Senate source said not only two but seven administration senators were "disgruntled" with the leadership of Drilon.

The source said that aside from Osmeña, those unhappy with Drilon were Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar, Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, Noli de Castro, Ralph Recto, Robert Barbers and Ramon Revilla.

Drilon insisted yesterday "the majority coalition remains in firm control of the Senate leadership."

"The matter of recruiting (members by each side) is a political game," he said.

It is the kind of game, he added, that "our people abhor and want a respite from."

Pimentel, however, appeared to be confident there would be a change in the Senate leadership soon, and he would even be Senate president.

Reacting to Drilon's statement last weekend that the opposition "must be dreaming" if it expected a change in the Senate leadership, Pimentel said, "If he says I am dreaming, it would be good for the opposition. It means he has a false sense of security."

At a Manila Hotel breakfast forum yesterday, Pimentel answered in the affirmative when asked if he expected changes in the Senate leadership soon. He expressly added that he would be seeking the chamber's presidency.

"(There would be changes in the Senate) soon. But it's not important because (the opposition) would still support the thrust of the government. What's good about it is we would be coming up with programs for the welfare of the people," Pimentel said.

"Naturally, I expect to be Senate president," he added curtly.

Cut this Ad worth 1 FREE YoYo Balloon Coffee Mug

BALLOON BUSINESS!

- WORKSHOP SKED.: EVERY WED. or SAT.
- RESERVATION REQUIRED
- WITH FREE 2 YOYO BALLOONS!

C.B.E. YoYo Balloons (Located at SM Supermalls) ENTRANCE DECOR

ONLY P22,500.00 INITIAL CAPITAL AND YOU CAN START YOUR OWN BALLOON BUSINESS RIGHT AWAY!

INCLUDES:
- Starter Kit: 1,000 + Imported U.S. Balloons (Different Sizes, Colors & Shapes)
- Balloon Pumps, (BIG AND SMALL)
- Balloon Printing Set
- Balloon Sticks and Cups, Clip Sticks
- Giant Balloon Drop Bags w/ Balloons
- Training Workshop Conducted by U.S. Trained Balloon Experts
- Certificate, Free Lunch and Snack
- Pictures, Brochures and more
- Practicum at 5 Star Hotel or other venues

OPTIONAL: Imported Electric Inflator P7,500.00 each

SALE! -11" Rnd. U.S.A PRL. Balloons (P5.00 each) - 5" Rnd. U.S.A STD. Balloons (P 1.95 each)

WE WILL SHOW YOU HOW WITH OUR FREE WORKSHOP!

SUBMIT THIS AD WHEN YOU PAY AND WE WILL GIVE YOU FREE 1 YOYO BALLOON COFFEE MUG.

Call or Visit: YOYO BALLOONS 10-D Xavierville Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Philippines Tel. Nos.: 922-5543 • 426-2973 920-1440 • Fax No.: 922-0068

YOU CAN USE YOUR OWN TRADE NAME! NO NEED TO PAY ANY FRANCHISE FEE!

VALID UNTIL 30 JANUARY 2002

THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY

Cut this Ad worth 1 Bag U.S. Asstd. Balloons

MUG PRINTING BUSINESS!!!

NO BIG CAPITAL REQUIRED!

WASHPROOF PRINTS IN FULL COLOR W/IN TWO (2) HOURS!!!

HANDS-ON TRAINING ON HOW TO TRANSFER PHOTOS, COMPANY LOGOS AND OTHER DESIGNS ON COFFEE MUGS AND PLATES AS SOUVENIRS OR GIFTS TO YOUR FRIENDS AND CLIENTS • WITH FREE MATERIALS TO START YOUR OWN SOUVENIR/GIFT ITEM BUSINESS RIGHT AWAY! (Mugs, Transfer Solution and Transfer Paper)

FOR RESERVATION/CONFIRMATION, CALL: 426-2973; 922-5543; 433-2500

PLACE: YoYo BALLOONS SHOP 10-D Xavierville Ave., Loyola Heights, Quezon City - near Ateneo, Katipunan

SCHEDULE: (SUN., MON., WED., & SAT.) SUNDAYS 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon -w/Free Snacks MONDAYS 3:00 PM-5:00 PM -w/Free Snacks WED. & SAT. 1:00 PM-3:00 PM -w/Free Snacks

PARTICIPATION FEE- P3,500.00 only per participant VALID UNTIL 30 JANUARY 2002

CERTIFICATE awarded at end of workshop

THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS EVERY TUESDAY

COMMUNICATION MADE EASY!

FOR ONLY P 20,000

- Brand new Hybrid System
- Legally sourced with one (1) year warranty
- Type approved by PLDT
- Caller's ID capability

PABX with INTERCOM feature

HEADSTART GROUND FLR., DE LA MERCED BLDG., (beside Delta Thtr.) QUEZON AVE., corner WEST AVE., Q.C. ☎371-2455 TO 56 371-2912 / 2907 / 2908 / 2449 • FAX: 410-5062

AUTHORIZED: National Panasonic Dealer & Service Center

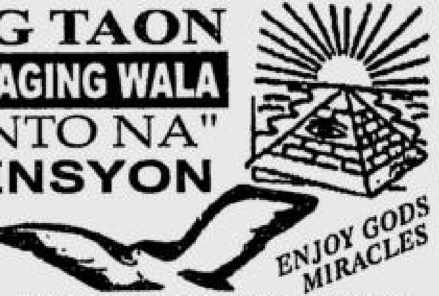
Hindi na kailangan magpahula sa Bagong Taon. LUCKY PYRAMID + WISHING PLANT + FAITH IN GOD-Matutupad ang pangarap mo.

PAMPA-SUWERTE SA PAGPASOK NG BAGONG TAON

MABILIS ANG BISA SA MGA NANINIWALA, SA MGA MAY DUDA AT KRITIKO AY LAGING WALA

GOOD NEWS: GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA "NAIMBENTO NA"

HINDI AGIMAT, TALISMAN O MAGIC, ITO AY IMBENSYON



ENJOY GODS MIRACLES

ENJOY GODS MIRACLES

Magpa-totoo ka! PARA MARAMING MANIWALA, MARAMING MANALO NG JACKPOT AT MARAMING YUMAMAN

MIRIAM from San Pablo 4x ng NANANALO NG P100,00.00 JACKPOT sa BINGO pagbili ng Pyramid sa Los Baños.

--ooOoo--

Dec 26, 2001 Unang bili ko ng Pyramid tumama agad ako ng 4x sa San Pablo BINGO -TESS C.

--ooOoo--

NANALO ako ng P41,000.00 sa slot machine sa Holiday Inn last Dec. 15 2001 pagkabili ko lang ng Green Pyramid. Salamat kay Engr. Centeno at sa wakas nanalo rin. --ooOoo--

MIGUEL ENOJO- NANALO sa Star Mall BINGO 3x P1,500+ P15,000 2 Tickets lang. Bumili lang White Pyramid, Last Dec. 26 2001.

CONGRATULATIONS Mr. M. ng Ciudad Grande, Sta. Rosa Laguna. Bumili kay engr. Centeno ng Lucky Pyramid sa JC Herbal. NANALO ng JACKPOT sa LOTTO 12M pesos.

2 BESES NANALO ng P100,000 4/15/2000 Noong Aug. 10 1998 bumili ako ng GOLD PYRAMID sa EDSA Manuela after 1 week Aug. 16, NANALO ako sa farmers Plaza ng P100,000 JACKPOT sa BINGO at NANALO rin noong Jan. 19, 1999 sa Robinson's Galleria, P100,000 JACKPOT Din, at marami pang sunud-sunod na consolation prizes. -NORIE TINIO Pasig City

Nakapag-ABROAD na sa TAIWAN, 2 BESES pa NANALO sa CHRISTMAS RAFFLE ang kapatid na may GOLD PYRAMID (PRIZES: APPLIANCES & 50,000 TAIWAN DOLLAR)

Oct. 18 2001 Nanalo ako sa 4 digit, ginupit ko lang yung ads sa dyaryo at nilagay ko sa wallet ko. Ilang araw lang tumama na ako. P100,000.00. Solve lahat ang problema ko. (8698 Oct.1) BALATO P500.00 ALEXANDER ARRIENDA IMUS, CAVITE

Nalulugi ba negosyo mo? Lubog ka na ba sa utang? Wla ka bang puhunan? Makakatulong ito sa iyo... "LUCKY PYRAMID AT WISHING PLANT

Contact: Engr. MARGIE D. CENTENO Young inventor of the Year 1990 one of the 10 Most Outstanding Inventor 1993

Now Available: Miracle of FAITH & SCIENCE BOOK Pampa YAMAN na LIBRO

FREE BIBLE FOR LUCKY CUSTOMER

BIBLE MESSAGE for today: Let us give thanks to the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the merciful Father, the God from whom help comes! He helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have recieved from God. 2 Cor. 1:3,4

Dec. 23, 2000 • HINIPO KO LANG ANG PYRAMID TAPOS KINABUKASAN NATANGGAP NA AKO SA TRABAHO. Alfred Alfonso Sta. Cruz Laguna

BIGLANG YAMAN DUMARAMI DAHIL SA PYRAMID

LUCKY PYRAMID

PARA HINDI NA MAUBUSAN NG PERA

"PAG MABILIS KANG BUMILI, MABILIS KANG MANALO"

Fight gambling USE

LUCKY PYRAMID GAMOT SA SAKIT SA BULSA PARA HINDI NA MAUBUSAN NG PERA

Goodluck sa Negosyo, Trabaho, Pag-ibig, Swerte sa LOTTO, Bingo, Atbp.

Nagkaroon ako ng computer galing Alaska noong Oktubre, dahil nagtanim ako ng maliit na laruan na computer, Thank you sa Pyramid -Arvin Gallego 6744 Bangkal St. Los Baños Laguna

JC HERBAL Mabibili rin: WISHING PLANT (pampa-UNLAD NG BUHAY)

Lalong Gumagaala lalong dumaragsa ang PERA! Walang Mawawala kung susubukan. Hindi Anting-anting, o Magic. Yung walang pera, nagkakapera, Yung walang trabaho, nagka-katrabaho, Yung di nan-analo, lagi nananalo Sa BINGO, LOTTO, RAFFLE at iba pa.

Since I started to cut the ads from the newspaper I inserted it from my checkbook, never I ever encountered hardly in funding all the checks I issued. My business prosper & I was able to go out frequently outside the country. I don't have yet a Pyramid & Wishing Plant but all the blessings comes very often. -LYZ N. Cubao, Q.C

Note: For 1 month I can sell 1MILLION

OTHER HERBAL PRODUCTS

RICH HAIR – Pampa-TUBO ng BUHOK 1 week at P400 & P600

SUPER EYE, SUPER VISION

(Pampa-LINAW ng MATA (Goodbye Eyeglasses)	P300 only
HEIGHT PLUS–Pampa-TANGKAD	P600 only
Pampa-TALINO-Pampa-PASA SA EXAM	P200 only
OVAGEN-Pampa-taba	P300 only
SLIMMING OIL -Pampa-SEXY	P400 only
LOVE MATE PAMPALIGAYA NG MAG-ASAWA	P650 only

Visit us at: JC HERBAL

2665 Nat'l, Hi-way, Anos Los Banos, Laguna (before Anos Bridge)

Call Tels: (049) 5366900; (049) 8270096; (049) 8270767

Cellphone: 0917-9461917; 0919-3422861; 0919-6769790

Res. (049) 537-8105 • Fax No. (049)-536-6900

E-mail: lucky_pyramid@yahoo.com

FREE LOTTO TIP

Dec. 11, 2001 NANALO ng Slot Machine Casino P600,000.00 sa Holiday Inn, Dalawang beses. Green Pyramid. Malou Buroe 1781 Sta. Cruz, Mla.

Dec. 12, 2001 NANALO ako ng P28,000.00 sa 6/49 noong Sun. (Dec. 9, 2001) ginupit ko lang sa Tiktik yung Lucky Pyramid di na ako nag-abroad! -JIMMY Payatas, Q.C.

Dec. 14, 2001 Pagkatapos ng dalawang araw na tumaya sa Jueteng, NANALO agad ako ng 3,500.00 at ang numero ay 13x33 kaya lubos ang aking paniniwala kay Engr. Centeno. (Balato P100.00) EVELYN DIMAPILIS # 3 Stardust St. Phase I-D Moonwalk Las Piñas City

Dec. 15, 2001 Nasugatan ako sa daliri sa paa ng nagpapadicure ako at namaga at masakit, hindi ako makapagsapatos. Itinapat ko ang White Pyramid w/ face of Jesus at naramdaman ko na parang hinihigop sa loob. Paggising ko kinabukasan, nawala ang kirot at unti-unting natuyo ang sugat ko. GIRLIE ng QC Hall

Dec. 14, 2001 NANALO ng P200,000 sa Casino. Pyramid Green. Ginamit sa negosyo. -Zaldy Pineda, 1681 Sta. Cruz Mla.

Dec. 16, 2001 Ginupit ko lang sa ads sa Inquirer NANALO sa Super LOTTO ng P49,000 Dec. 21, 2001 -Nagpapasalamat Wilma ng Diliman Q.C.

NANALO sa KARERA Dec. 30, 2001 Ako po si Rosalina Aquino bumili po ako ng wishing Plant kay Engr. Centeno Binigay ko po sa nanay ko nagwish po siya na tumama sa karera nanalo siya ng P5,000 -92 11th St. 11th Ave., Kal. City Tel#3649335

Jan. 2, 2001 NANALO sa CASINO NG P44,000.00 pagkabili ng Lucky Pyramid Kauupo pa lang nanalo agad. -Marissa ng San Pedro Laguna

LAST MONEY IBINILI NG WISHING PLANT ng empleyado ng Congress NANALO ng P24 Million JACKPOT sa LOTTO. Biglang nag-resign sa Congress umuwi na ng Butuan City. Balak mag Franchise ng Jollibee sa Butuan

UMIYAK NOONG PASKO Dec. 24, 2001 Dapat NANALO NG P14 MILLION hindi natayaan ang TIP ni Engr. CENTENO. Dec.12, 2001 (15-18-21-28-31-42) -Marissa Betonio Mayondon

Nabigyan ako ng papel ng balitang swerte. NANALO ako ng sunud-sunod sa may Harizon Plaza BINGO Last Sept. 2000 -NIR, Cavite City

Yong kaibigan ko na bumili ng Pyramid na taga Tanuan Batangas Dalawang Beses Tumama sa LOTTO. 4 Digit P26,000.00, 4 Digit P20,000.00 -Lucing Aranez

BALITANG SUWERTE

Sept. 25, 2001 LAST MONEY ibinili ng LUCKY PYRAMID. NANALO ng JACKPOT sa LOTTO 4-Digit 4754 (tip ng JC Herbal) sa Olivarez pinataya ni Engr. Centeno Nanalo pa sa sabong. Nonong Nicolas ng ng Sta Rita, Aplaya Batangas City Salamat sa balato P500.00

***

Sept. 25, 2001 Nagpapasalamat po ako kay Engr. M. Centeno dahil tumatama ang ibinigay niyang 4 digit TIP sa LOTTO Willy ng Sta Cruz, Laguna

***

Emy ng San Antonio Los Baños, nanalo ng P20,000 sa 6/42 LOTTO nakabili ng RED PYRAMID sa JC Herbal Los Baños

***

14 Oct 2001 Carmen Gonzalez (Biñan) Last Week lang bumili ng GOLD PYRAMID, nanalo ng P300,000 JACKPOT SA BINGO

-HERBAL-

EFFECTIVE ANG LOVEMATE nakabili ako sa SM North EDSA Magaling kaya hinanap ko pa, pinuntahan ko pa sa Los Baños. Bumili ako. BIG J. --ooOoo--

VERY EFFECTIVE ang OVAGEN pampa-TABA, sumikip na ang mga damit ko. Aling Rosa ng Kanluran, Bayog Los Baños --ooOoo--

VERY EFFECTIVE ang pampa-LINAW ng MATA 17 Nov. 2001 Hindi na po ako gumagamit ng salamin simula ng gumamit ako ng MIRACLE OIL. Talaga pong effective ang MIRACLE OIL. Thank you po kay Engr. Margie Centeno. & Thank you Lord Jesus Christ. JOSIE- Bulacan --ooOoo--

Dec. 17, 2001 Gumaling na and Diabetes ko sa nabili kong Dia-B-Tea sa JC Herbal. Gumaling na ang sugat ko sa paa sa JC Miracle Oil & Dia-B-Tea. CONCHITA LUYAO Tunasan Muntinlupa --ooOoo--

Bumili ako ng pangpabait ng asawa ko ngayon po ay umipekto na. Mahusay City Mamatin Cabuyao

Dec. 17, 2001 Congrats!!! Govt. Employee Ricardo M. ng Cagayan de Oro, NANALO ng JACKPOT sa Bingo ng P50,000.00 ginupit lang ang ads sa Daily Inquirer kinabukasan NANALO, Nakabayad sa utang.

Dec. 17, 2001 Ginupit ko lang sa Dyaryo Daily Inquirer NANALO ako sa Jueteng ng P3,500.00 -RODRIGO ACCUVIDA Pangasinan

12 DEC. 2001 Nabasa ng isang Filipina sa Hongkong ang ads ng Lucky Pyramid sa Pilipino Star Ngayon, nag-overseas call sa nanay n'ya sa Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Pinabili n'ya yung nanay n'ya ng Lucky Pyramid at Wishing Plant sa JC Herbal, Anos, Los Baños. NANALO ang nanay n'ya ng P23 Million JACKPOT sa Lotto. Pinauwi na s'ya ngayon sa Pilipinas. (wag na magtrabaho sa Hongkong, magnegosyo na lang sa Pilipinas may puhunan na P23 Million.

NANALO ng JACKPOT sa LOTTO P12 Million Oct 31, 2001 nakabili ng WHITE PYRAMID sa JC Herbal Yung Kapit-bahay namin nanalo ng jackpot P12M two weeks ago. Sa Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Mr. Medina ng Ciudad Grande (NAGPAGAWA NG BAHAY) B. S. ng Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Ano kayang meron sa mahiwagang papel na ito? PAPEL PA LAMANG NAGKAKAPERA KA NA, ANO PA KAYA KUNG MAY PYRAMID KA NA...

Congratulations! MS. MYRNA, empleyada ng House of Congress bumili ng Bagong Tiktik, ginupit ang ads na Lucky Pyramid. Bumili ng Wishing Plant sa JC Herbal, nanalo ng P24 million sa LOTTO

"PAGMABILIS KANG BUMILI MABILIS KANG MANALO"

CONGRATULATIONS! (4X) BINGO winner in one day Mag-asawa ng Bayog, Los Baños. Umabot sa P54,500.00 ang panalo

5 BESES NANALO SA BINGO PAGKABILI NG LUCKY PYRAMID! Una nanalo ako ng P1,000.00 after 2 days nanalo naman ako ng P3,000.00 another 2 days P3,000.00 then 3 days P5,000.00 then in ten days P20,000.00. Ben de Ramos Kaybaybay Bridge Dr. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City

ALAM BA NINYO...? Alam ba ninyo na mahigit sa 70 na ang mga nanalo ng JACKPOT na NAKABILI KAY Engr. M.D. Centeno ng LUCKY PYRAMID at WISHING PLANT, ngunit ni isa ay walang bumalik para magpasalamat at magbalato. Gumaling ang kanilang Sakit sa Bulsa, sa iba namin nalaman na NANALO pala sila. Mabuti pa yung 10 ketongin na pinagaling ni Hesu Kristo, may isang bumalik upang magpasalamat. Mabuti pa yung mga NANALO ng kakaunting halaga lamang bumabalik sila upang magpasalamat at magpatotoo. Sa kanilang mga balato ay maraming natulungan upang maipaabot ang GAMOT sa SAKIT sa BULSA sa mahihirap. Bakit pag masamang balita madaling kumalat, pag magandang balita ayaw ikalat, ayaw-i-front page...

NANALO NG Php 23 MILLION JACKPOT SA MEGA LOTTO PATOTOO Yung kaibigan kong si Myrna Gonzales from Sta. Rosa bibili lang ng buko pie, bumili ng Lucky Pyramid & wishing Plant sa JC Herbal, Los Baños NANALO ng Php 23 MILLION sa Mega Lotto, umuwi na ng Agdao Davao. Jennifer Villaran Anos, Los Baños

LABANAN ang KAHIRAPAN LABANAN ang SUGAL

CONGRATULATIONS! "TO LOTTO JACKPOT WINNER FROM BINONDO. MANILA. ANG BINILI NIYA AY WISHING PLANT"

CONGRATULATIONS! Tga Cabuyao- nanalo ng 25 Million sa Lotto, nagpagawa ngayon ng bahay Worth 10 Million sa Mabuhay City

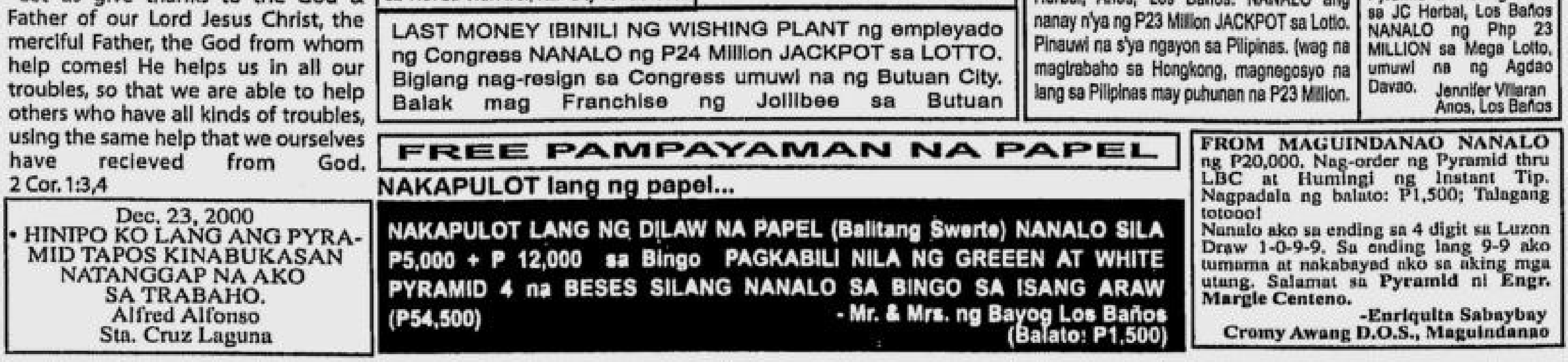
FREE PAMPAYAMAN NA PAPEL

NAKAPULOT lang ng papel...

NAKAPULOT LANG NG DILAW NA PAPEL (Balitang Swerte) NANALO SILA P5,000 + P 12,000 sa Bingo PAGKABILI NILA NG GREEEN AT WHITE PYRAMID 4 na BESES SILANG NANALO SA BINGO SA ISANG ARAW (P54,500) - Mr. & Mrs. ng Bayog Los Baños (Balato: P1,500)

FROM MAGUINDANAO NANALO ng P20,000. Nag-order ng Pyramid thru LBC at Humingi ng Instant Tip. Nagpadala ng balato: P1,500; Talagang totooo! Nanalo ako sa ending sa 4 digit sa Luzon Draw 1-0-9-9. Sa ending lang 9-9 ako tumama at nakabayad ako sa aking mga utang. Salamat sa Pyramid ni Engr. Margie Centeno. -Enriquita Sabaybay Cromy Awang D.O.S., Maguindanao

WALA NA PO TAYONG EXHIBITS SA METRO MANILA DITO PO LAMANG MAKAKABILI SA JC HERBAL, Anos Los Baños, Laguna



Bayan
Shell Gas Station
Mitz Buko Pie
Original buko Pie
To Calamba
Anos, Los Baños Laguna to UPLB
ISINIPIT LANG SA BANKBOOK KUMITA NG P1M PER MONTH -LYZ N. Cubao, Q.C
61 KMS.
Carbem Village
Mitz Buko Pie
JC HERBAL
ISIPIT SA BANKBOOK OR CHECKBOOK ANG ADS NA ITO.

NOTE: Tumataas ang halaga ng Pyramid pag may nanalo sa Jackpot sa Lotto P5,000-20,000 *Best Buy pang JACKPOT • Now Available: P1,800 GOLD PYRAMID

Swerte mo'y Simulan na! Gupitin ang ADS na ito at ilagay sa Pitaka Cut & Bring this AD for your FREE LOTTO & BINGO (CIRCLE 8) Tips.

BIYAYA SA NANINIWALA SA PILOSOPO WALA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, January 8, 2002
Week After Epiphany

1st Reading:	1 Jn 4:7-10
Gospel:	Mk 6:34-44

As Jesus went ashore he saw a large crowd, and he had compassion on them for they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began a long teaching session with them.

It was now getting late, so his disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place and it is now late. You should send the people away and let them go to the farms and villages around here to buy themselves something to eat."

Jesus replied, "You yourselves give them something to eat." They answered, "If we are to give them food, we must go and buy two hundred silver coins' worth of bread." But Jesus said, "You have some loaves: how many? Go and see." The disciples found out and said, "There are five loaves and two fish."

Then he told them to have the people sit down together in groups on the green grass. This they did in groups of hundreds and fifties. And Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish and, raising his eyes to heaven, he pronounced a blessing, broke the loaves and handed them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided the two fish among them.

They all ate and everyone had enough. The disciples gathered up what was left and filled twelve baskets with broken pieces of bread and fish. Five thousand men had eaten there.

Commentary

The Epiphany theme of "making known" is continued in the beautiful first reading. Jesus has come not just to talk about God's love but to show it and to share it. How does God see and love? The gospel shows us: Jesus and his disciples have gone in search of a quiet place to be alone and rest. But when Jesus sees the crowd, like sheep without a shepherd, his heart goes out to them and he longs to let them know they are precious in God's sight. And we, his disciples, can we also feed our brothers and sisters? Even with our limitations and the little we have to offer? Jesus seems to say: "Don't be afraid. Place what you have to offer in my hands. You will find it is more than enough."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—Treachery under par. 16 of Article 14 of the Revised Penal Code is defined as the deliberate employment of means, methods or forms in the execution of a crime against persons which tend directly and especially to ensure its execution, without risk to the offender arising from the defense which the intended victim might raise. For treachery to be appreciated two elements must concur: (1) the employment of means of execution that would insure the safety of the accused without an opportunity to defend himself and (2) the means employed were deliberately or consciously adopted by the offender. The suddenness of the attack, the infliction of the wound from behind the victim, the vulnerable position of the victim at the time the attack was made or the fact that the victim was unharmed do not by themselves render the attack as treacherous. This is of particular significance in a case of an instantaneous attack made by the accused whereby he gained an advantageous position over the victim when the latter accidentally fell and was rendered defenseless. The means employed for the commission of the crime or the mode of attack must be shown to have been consciously or deliberately adopted by the accused to insure the consummation of the crime and at the same time eliminate or reduce the risk of retaliation from the intended victim. Accordingly, it has been consistently held by this court that chance encounters, impulse killing or crimes committed at the spur of the moment or that were preceded by heated altercations are generally not attended by treachery for lack of opportunity of the accused to deliberately employ a treacherous mode of attack. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Gonzaga-Reyes, *En Banc*, People v. Gonzalez, Jr., G.R. No. 139542, June 21, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Abenina: I'm a rebel, but...

BY AGNES E. DONATO AND NESTOR P. BURGOS JR.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ABENINA

"I AM a rebel, not because I want to topple the government but because I do what's good for it."

With this assertion, sacked Land Transportation Office chief Edgardo Abenina went on to describe his critics as "big-mouthed people who only want to be recognized in the guise of working for the people."

"They are the ones who are destabilizing the government," he said yesterday, at the first press conference he gave since his forced resignation on Dec. 20. The conference was held at his LTO office.

Abenina said the people he was referring were the ones who "assassinated my character"—by linking him to alleged anomalies at the LTO, an alleged destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration and the Baron Cervantes murder.

Abenina, along with five others, have been mentioned as possible suspects in the New Year's Eve killing of Cervantes, the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers Union (YOU) to which some of the suspects belong.

One of the five, Supt. Rafael Cardeño, YOU chair, has been declared Awol (absent without official leave) since Dec. 29 when he failed to report to his new provincial assignment, the police regional director in Western Visayas said yesterday.

"Cardeño will be subjected to (an) investigation for his absence when he reports for work," said Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia.

Cardeño was transferred to an unspecified post in Police Regional Office 6 (PRO-6) in Western Visayas on Oct. 24 from his job at the LTO after he was linked to a coup plot against the administration.

Another YOU leader also mentioned in the Cervantes killing, Chief Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, was transferred to Zamboanga.

PRO-6 dropped Cardeño from the PNP roster on Nov. 24, one month after he failed to report for work, Garcia said.

But PRO-6 received an order from PNP national headquarters early last month moving Cardeño's date of transfer from Oct. 24 to Dec. 15, Garcia added.

He said Cardeño showed up at PRO-6 on Dec. 20, asking to be given a leave of absence so he could look for a lawyer to help him in his case.

He failed to report or communicate with the police regional office as of noon yesterday.

Reports said Cardeño has denied he and Valeroso had gone Awol. He said he was with his family for the holidays and would be back at work soon.

For his part, Abenina said yesterday he was "completely satisfied" with the performance of the Macapagal administration.

He said he could not be a part of any movement aiming to unseat the President since he severed all his ties with his former organizations when he assumed office.

On the killing of Cervantes, he said, "Killing is not my way of achieving personal and national objectives."

Abenina admitted he knew the late self-styled YOU spokesperson, whom he described as a "hanger-on."

"He used to hang about when I was still on the negotiating panel of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM)," he said.

Abenina said that when he took office as LTO assistant secretary, Cervantes approached him for a job at the agency, and later offered to handle the insurance requirements of registered vehicles.

Round of golf links PNP chief to alleged drug dealer

BY DEBRA JANE MAGALLON
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Ombudsman's office in the Visayas has asked Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza to explain how the signature of a suspected drug lord appeared on his scorecard during a golf game in November at the Cebu Country Club.

Director Virginia Palanca-Santiago of the Ombudsman-Visayas said the "markings" on the scorecard of Mendoza's group were similar to the signature of Wellington Lim.

The Ombudsman-Visayas is conducting a fact-finding inquiry on the controversial golf game on Nov. 10 where reporters claimed to have spotted Mendoza and Lim playing together.

At the time, Lim and his older brother, Peter, were subjects of a congressional inquiry in which they were tagged by former employees as drug lords in Cebu.

The brothers have denied the charges and claimed that their accusers were disgruntled employees who had been sacked for grave misconduct.

Santiago said she compared the markings to Wellington Lim's affidavit that was submitted to the Cebu City Prosecutor's Office after receiving a tip from a concerned citizen last week.

Similar markings

An unidentified man called Santiago in her office on Jan. 3, urging her to examine the receipts and the scorecards used in the golf game played by Mendoza and some top police officials.

The informant also told Santiago to get a copy of Lim's affidavit and compare his signature with the markings on the scorecards.

Santiago said she did what the caller asked her to do. To her surprise, the markings and the Lim's signature turned out to be similar, she said.

MENDOZA

An employee of the country club, who asked not be named, told the INQUIRER that all players are required to sign their scorecards after every game.

The source said it was also possible that the person whose signature appeared on the scorecard was the one who paid the green fees.

The Ombudsman-Visayas inquiry is trying to determine who paid the green fees of the Mendoza group.

Santiago said their initial investigation showed that Mendoza and Lim were actually in separate flights. It just happened that they were practicing at the driving range at the same time, she said.

Mendoza was with Deputy Director Gen. Rex Piad, chief of the Camp Crame Directorial Staff; Deputy Police Director Thompson Lantion, Crame Police Community Relations head; Supt. Dennis Canoy, head of the Police Regional Office's comptroller division; and businessman Joseph Alquizola.

Lim, on the other hand, was accompanied by Deputy Director Oscar Calderon, chief of the Camp Crame Intelligence and Detective Management Group; and a certain George Uy.

'Who paid?'

"What we want to know is who shouldered the bills during the golf game (played by Mendoza's group)," Santiago said.

The police Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division in Central Visayas conducted the same inquiry but later cleared Mendoza of any impropriety.

Supt. Jonathan Miano, RIID-7 director, said there was nothing irregular in Mendoza's playing golf with Lim as the police chief was in Cebu to attend a wedding and was not on official business.

Canoy told Santiago yesterday that it was Alquizola, and not Lim, who paid for their game. Alquizola, who owns MAC–II Autosales in Mandaue City, is a member of the Cebu Country Club.

Canoy, however, could not say if Alquizola was a friend of Mendoza although he is known to have previously played with the PNP chief.

He maintained that Mendoza's meeting with Lim was just a coincidence. He said Lim merely greeted the PNP chief because they were acquaintances.

Canoy said the other players had also signed the scorecard but said he could not remember which ones because they were anxious to be on their way as Mendoza had to go to a conference at the Cebu Plaza Hotel.

Santiago said she would summon Carmen Borja, general manager of the country club, to explain why the markings on Mendoza's scorecard were similar to Lim's signature. *With a report from Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Filipiniana photo lecture Jan. 12

JOHN L. Silva, a senior consultant at the National Museum, will talk on "Collecting Filipiniana Photographs" in a lecture at the museum on S[illegible] 12, at 10 a.m.

Silva will delve into the history of photography in the Philippines and will touch upon his own and that of his partner Jonathan Best's personal collection of over 2,000 photographs which have been accumulated from all over this world over a period of more than 20 years.

The lecture is part of this year's series of lectures sponsored by the National Museum, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines Inc.

The theme of this year's series is "The Great Philippine Collections" and will cover photographic images, books, paintings, archaeological artifacts as well as the experience and memories of those who accumulated them or of those who are now in charge of them.

The lecture proper will commence at 10 a.m. at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall, Museum of the Filipino People (former Finance Bldg.), P. Burgos Street, Rizal Park.

Registration starts at 9 a.m. and admission fees include a free tour of the current exhibits of the National Museum. For information, call Jing or Michelle tel. 813-0771.

An Invitation To A Pilgrimage To The
HOLY LAND
11 Days
DEPARTURE DATE: JAN. 28, 2002
FR. JOEY FALLER
Pilgrimage Chaplain
EXECUTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE COORDINATORS
Lower Lobby, Century Park Hotel, P. Ocampo Sr., Malate, Manila
Call Tess, Noro or Jojang • Tel. Nos. 5238581, 5214156
FAX 5260126 • E-mail: pilgrimage@execres.com.ph
IATA DOT-228-2090 PTAA

LOSE FAT FAST, SAVE UP TO P39,000.

SLIMMERS WORLD

PAY ONLY P35 per visit on full programmes

First 50 in January.

13 centers, 23 years in the Philippines. 1,500 affiliates worldwide.

DOUBLE THE FAT LOSS in half the time with NUTRITIONAL COUNSELING.

NO MONTHLY DUES! NO JOINING FEES!

It's never too late to be fit with our Personal Trainers.

Studies confirm that people as old as 98 can achieve dramatic gains in strength. Regular strength training can fight the effects of degenerative diseases & reduce injury.

CALL US:

VISIT US:www.slimmersworld.com.ph WRITE US:inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG	BINONDO	CALOOCAN	CEBU	GREENHILLS	LEGASPI	MALATE	MEGAMALL	PASAY RD.	PASIG	SM NORTH	SUBIC	SALCEDO VILL.
Karen	Jannah	Sherry	Em-em	Cha/Abie	Ruth	Ruth	Michelle	Mel	Lorie	Aileen	Ruza	Sheila
2nd Flr.. RCBC Bldg.	3/F Regina Garden II	6/F Panorama Bldg., Rizal Ave.	Basement 1 & 2 Ayala Center	27/F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis	G/F Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St.	6/F Pan Pacific Hotel, Adriatico St.	2/F Bldg. A Megamall	1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St.	Restaurant Ave., Marcos Hi-way	SM City 2/F SM Annex	2/F Times Sq. Bldg. Rizal Hi-way	Trafalgar Plaza Dela Costa St.
809-0396	242-1312	365-7654	231-3254	726-6505	893-8934	536-0619	631-3869	887-1336	681-5333	929-5429	252-6514	814-0138

Burn up to 750 calories in 60 minutes.
Gain 10 lbs. of muscle.
Build & firm bust.
BIG DISCOUNTS! for over 50's on Lifetime membership programmes.
BODY FORMER Lose 1,000 calories while you relax.

•100% soy ink•

EUGENIA D. APOSTOL
Founding Chairman

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 31
ISSN
0116-2642

ISAGANI YAMBOT
Publisher

LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Editor in Chief

JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Managing Editor

ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor

ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR.
News Editor

NILO B. PAUROM
Assistant News Editor

PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
National Editor

GERRY LIRIO
City Editor

ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Senior Deskperson

JORGE V. ARUTA
Opinion Editor

FRANCOISE B. JOAQUIN
Night Editor

AMANDO DORONILA
Editorial Consultant

MARIXI R. PRIETO
Board Chairman

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President

RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President
for Sales and Marketing

DAVID O. VALDES
Senior Vice President
for Corporate Services

FELIPE R. OLARTE
VP for Advertising

GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL
AVP for Circulation

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati City, Philippines • Our new telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments; Editorial Fax 897-4793, 897-4794; Advertising 897-4807; Circulation 527-33-42, 527-33-46, 528-01-83, 528-01-86 and 528-02-13, Fax: 528-02-34.

All rights reserved. Subject to the conditions provided for by law, no article or photograph published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reprinted or reproduced, in whole or in part, without its prior consent.

News management

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Macapagal's creation of a "clearinghouse" for the press releases and advertisements of government departments and agencies is stirring a lot of controversy. For one thing, it is being viewed as a form of censorship and an infringement on freedom of the press.

The President created the media "clearinghouse" last month and designated Press Undersecretary for Broadcast Manuel Sanchez to head it. She said that the "efficient management of information" was "vital to the public dissemination of government initiatives and the delivery of basic services." It has not been explained how a clearinghouse would make the dissemination of information more efficient when it adds another layer of bureaucracy and slows down the release of press releases.

It appears that what Ms Macapagal wants to be published about her administration, to quote a favorite phrase of former first lady Imelda R. Marcos, is only stories about "the true, the good and the beautiful." All positive, and nothing negative. But that is not the way the media operate in a democracy. The media have to publish and broadcast both the positive and the negative things about any administration.

Roberto Capco, press undersecretary for media operations, said that aside from the clearinghouse, the President also wanted an information coordinator for each region who would supervise all government information offices in his or her area. Shades of the Marcos information network! It even proved to be unworkable. Are we going back to that discredited system?

The "clearinghouse" concept infringes on freedom of the press. Freedom of the press is defined as the right to communicate information, ideas and opinions through the printed word without government restraint. At first, freedom of the press simply meant the absence of government licensing of printing and publishing. Later, it came to mean "no prior restraint" on publication. The idea of censorship is simply unacceptable.

In the "clearinghouse" concept, there is no prepublication or prebroadcast censorship at the point of the news desks. But the censorship comes earlier—at the very source of the information. The information is sanitized and will be given a positive spin by the "clearinghouse" before it is released to the media.

This system is unacceptable to a free press. It has to have access to all kinds of information, whether positive or negative. It has to have complete, not just partial, information about what is going on in government. In an American case, Saxbe v. Washington Post Co., Justice Lewis Powell said: "The people must therefore depend on the press for information concerning public institutions... The underlying right is the right of the public generally. The press is the necessary representative of the public interest... and the instrumentality which effects the public's right."

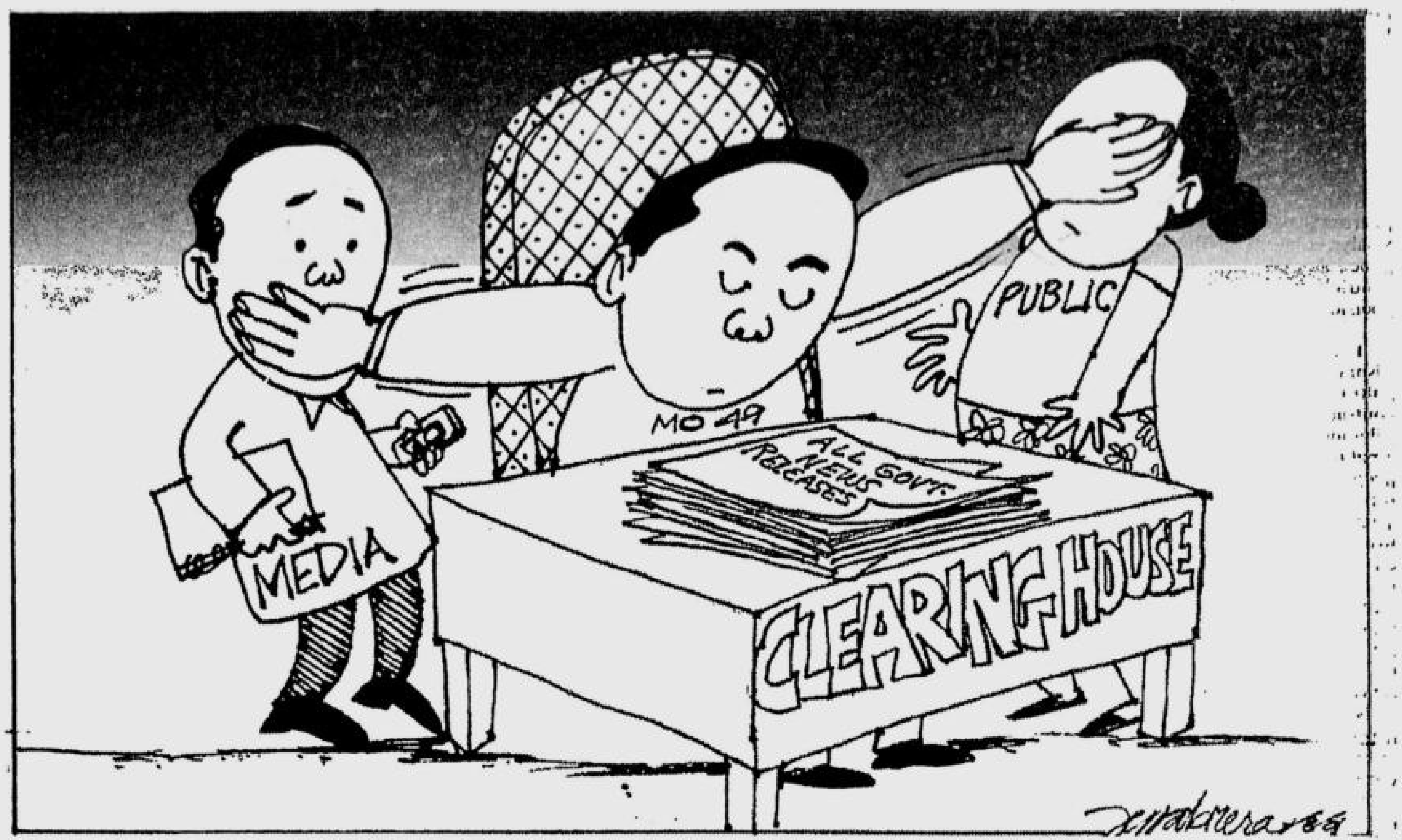
When the press demands complete, uncensored information about government institutions, decisions and actions, it represents the people who have the right to know what is happening in government. Franklyn S. Haiman, an American communication law scholar, says that the public's right to know is a vital element of freedom of the press "because such essential knowledge is in the hands of agencies and officials of government who can thwart the democratic process by keeping relevant material secret."

Haiman also says that the right to know is based on the need of the people for information to be able to exercise their responsibilities as citizens. Haiman says: "In a fundamental sense, data in the hands of government belong to the public, having been collected through the use of taxpayers' money and for the exercise of authority derived from the people as a whole."

Under Haiman's concept, information in the hands of the departments, bureaus and other agencies of government is information that rightly belongs to the people and should not be withheld from them except when the information affects national security, the public's economic interests and the privacy of those about whom information is gathered.

It should be noted that the President's memorandum also covers advertisements. Is the clearinghouse a means for ensuring that government ads go to the "friendly" media? Deposed President Estrada imposed a boycott on an "unfriendly" newspaper. Will the present administration, through the clearinghouse, now award ads to "friendly" ones?

The nation already had an experience with news management during the Marcos dictatorship. Are we returning to an era of news management with the creation of the information clearinghouse? The clearinghouse system infringes on freedom of the press. It should be done away with.



Lawbreakers telling gov't what to do

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS is the only country in the world where lawbreakers like squatters and sidewalk vendors demand that the government allow them to continue breaking the law. And this is the only country in the world where the courts of justice are used to commit injustices.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the controversy between sidewalk vendors in Divisoria and the Manila city government. Mayor Lito Atienza wants to remove the vendors from Ilaya, one of Divisoria's main streets, and transfer them to the side streets. Streets are built for vehicles, not for vendors, and it is a big concession to the vendors for the government to close the side streets so they can ply their trade there. But that's not good enough for them. They want to continue to lord it over Ilaya. They are breaking the law, but they are the ones telling the government what to do.

Any fool can see that they're not supposed to block traffic in the streets, but strangely enough, a court stopped the city government from transferring them to the side streets. A temporary restraining order, which Judge Wilfredo Reyes issued against City Hall, is usually good only for 10 days. That is why it is called "temporary." Ten days is enough to hear the arguments of both sides and for the judge to make up his mind as to who is right and who is wrong.

The TRO was issued on Dec. 20. It is now Jan. 7, 18 days since. The TRO should have lapsed a week ago, but the judge said it is still in effect and City Hall cannot touch the vendors. What kind of justice is this court dispensing?

Such anarchy is going on not only in Divisoria or Manila. It is going on everywhere and the police are either negligent and inefficient or, worse, are being bribed not to do their duty.

The national government spent hundreds of millions of pesos to widen Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City so that traffic will flow faster. But all that tax money is wasted at Manggahan in Fairview where vendors have occupied half of the avenue. Only two lanes on each side of the 10-lane street can be used by vehicles; the rest are occupied by vendors. As a result, traffic backs up for kilometers on both sides of Commonwealth. The Department of Public Works built an expensive underpass for vehicles at the corner of Commonwealth and Batasan Road, near the Sandiganbayan building. But that underpass has been rendered useless, the money wasted, because traffic can't move any faster due to the vendors at Manggahan several kilometers away.

When the road was being cleared of vendors before Christmas, no less than Chair Benjamin Abalos of the Metro Manila Development Authority and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte were shown on television supervising the operations. When Abalos was told that the vendors might return as soon as they leave, he said he would assign policemen to the area "24 hours a day."

But sure enough, the vendors are back and either the policemen are not there or they are not doing what they have been ordered to do: keep the vendors at bay. The vendors are no longer "sidewalk vendors;" they're now "street vendors" because they now occupy the streets.

Reports said the police supervisor allowed the vendors to occupy the street. He said it is "upon orders of City Hall." Assuming it was a humanitarian gesture, to allow the vendors to earn during the Christmas holidays, now the Christmas season is over, why are they still there? Where are Abalos's 24-hour policemen?

The same is true in other streets—Balintawak, Baclaran and other streets—anarchy everywhere with the police unable, unwilling or bribed by the vendors not to do their duty. Law-abiding citizens are held hostage by lawbreakers.

The vendors are trying to earn a living. But they should do that without impinging on the rights of the general public. As a compromise, some side streets can be closed to vehicles and given over to the vendors so that the principal streets will be fully open to vehicles. This is what Atienza is trying to do in Divisoria.

Or we can copy the "weekend market" in Bangkok. Vendors from all over gather at a big park during the weekend where they sell all sorts of products. People go to the weekend market to do their shopping. What will take the vendors a week to earn in the streets, they earn in only a couple of days at the weekend market. It is a regular tourist attraction. The vendors start arriving late Friday afternoon; by Monday morning the park is clean and clear of vendors.

In Tokyo, Ginza, the main street in the downtown area, is closed to vehicles on weekends and given over to street vendors. In Singapore, people's parks, parking areas and some streets are turned over to vendors at night. But during the day, the streets and parking areas are free of vendors. Why don't we do the same thing here?

Vendors in Divisoria say customers will not go to the side streets. That's not true. Buyers will go where the vendors are. On the contrary, more buyers will go there when the principal streets are clear of obstructions. Right now, many potential buyers are afraid to go to Divisoria because of the traffic there. They have heard of the cheap prices in Divisoria but the traffic—and the pickpockets and snatchers—deter them. Put order in the place and many more people will shop there.

Phantoms

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IS a coup possible? That's what several foreign journalists have asked me of late.

My answer now is the same one I had last year when coup rumors were also intermittently rife. Coup rumors are just that, rumors. They are more powerful in the threat than in the execution.

I cannot see how it can be done to begin with. I do not know of any group in the military today that can rouse a critical mass to attempt the kind of action RAM mounted in the late 1980s. The mainstream military is reasonably happy, and has every reason to be. The military was the last to join Edsa II but was the first to reap its bounty. The first thing President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo did after she took her oath of office was to visit the camps—where she was photographed partaking of a simple repast in the company of soldiers—and raise the soldiers' benefits. And the RAM-YOU has gotten, as one RAM officer told me shortly after Edsa II, "as fractious as the Left." I can't see, to go by Baron Cervantes' death, how things have gotten better in the way of unity.

Far more importantly, the thinking of the military has undergone a sea change over the last decade. The praetorian mindset imbibed by Sen. Gringo Honasan and company during martial law, which advanced the need for an armed group to act as guardians of the virtuous life—and not quite incidentally its arbiters—has pretty much dissolved in the horizon. Most senior military officers no longer think of the possibility of ruling, or co-ruling, with the civilian authorities. They think in terms of becoming part of the civilian authority. They think of becoming politicians.

Senator Honasan is not the exception, he is the rule. He is the future trajectory of colonels and generals, rebellious or otherwise. The situation today is not much different from the one before martial law, when civilian authority held near-absolute sway. You can see that easily in the way military officers sweat profusely when being grilled in congressional hearings, or when appearing before the Commission on Appointments for their promotions. That would never have happened during martial law, or even during Cory Aquino's time, when a provincial commander was more powerful than a mayor or governor.

I never bought that criticism by civil society during Fidel Ramos' time that Ramos was "militarizing" government by appointing retired generals to foreign affairs and other government positions. I thought, on the contrary, that it was civilianizing them. It gave the generals something to aspire for after retirement, a civilian job. Ramos himself and people like Sen. Rodolfo Biazon had shown the way to a transition from the military mindset to a civilian one. It was clear by the mid-1990s that the time of coups was history.

An even bigger problem for coup plotters is keeping power, even if their coup were to succeed. It wouldn't work even if the idea were merely to install a caretaker civilian government. It would have no legitimacy. It would not be recognized either by the international community—chiefly, the Americans in our case—or the courts. More than that, there is the public to contend with. The sea change hasn't just occurred in the minds of the military, it has occurred in the minds of the public. For all its defects, democracy throbs in these parts with much vitality. The past several Edsas have taught people that they can resist tyranny in whatever form it takes. And for good or bad, elections, and not *jueteng*, are now this country's favorite betting game. Hell will have no fury like Filipinos deprived of their favorite sport.

So why do coup rumors persist?

Well, the one person who revived them was Cervantes, who revealed that some RAM-YOU members had met clandestinely to plot against government and who apparently gave the Council on Philippine Affairs a list of the plotters. But Cervantes was not exactly the most trustworthy character in this world; he had about as much credibility as Ador Mawanay. But his word took on curious weight with his murder last week: Was what he was saying true after all?

Well, maybe some members of the RAM-YOU did meet to plot against President Macapagal—lest we forget, one key RAM player, Senator Honasan, was also one of Erap's staunchest defenders during the impeachment trial—but plotting against the incumbent President can take many forms. They do not naturally mean a coup. A coup is probably the last thing they mean.

The suggestion of a coup, however, holds much propaganda value for the Erap camp, which is not beyond fanning it for that purpose. Particularly on the eve of the first anniversary of Edsa II, an occasion that should echo with much chest-thumping on the part of those who have appropriated it—Aquino, Sin, Ramos and Ms Macapagal—and reaffirmations of resolve to put Erap behind bars. A coup rumor serves as counterfoil to those celebrations.

At the very least, it draws attention to the fact that the Incumbent President is not an elected one, which remains her source of vulnerability, and a potential source of instability. Which also suggests on the other hand the arguably continuing popularity of the former president, who was voted by the biggest of margins in the last elections and who was the rallying point of the rival "Edsa III." At the very most, well, coup plots in this country have always been justified on the ground that the government had become corrupt in the extreme, requiring a political excision. Rumors of a brewing coup suggest that of the Macapagal administration: It has become as corrupt as the one it replaced, or worse, if Linda Montayre is to be believed. The first is meant to deter government from prosecuting Erap, the second to erode its moral authority to do so.

It's good, old-fashioned, politics. Ms Macapagal is politicking—trying to beat everyone in campaigning for the presidency—and so are her rivals. A coup won't happen. But for President Macapagal at least, that may be the least of her problems.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Ranariddh treats Pinoys to breakfast at Angkor

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FRIENDS in Cambodia told me of the warm reception accorded to Speaker Joe de Venecia, his wife Gina and a delegation of Filipino representatives and businessmen by the president of the Cambodian National Assembly, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, during their visit which started on Jan. 3. They said it had all the trappings of a state visit, from the red carpet laid out at Pochentong Airport to the banners that were festooned in the streets of Phnom Penh declaring Cambodian-Philippine friendship and the Filipino flags hanging from the trees. Ranariddh and his wife, Princess Marie, tendered a dinner for the visitors at the Hotel Intercontinental, while his half-brother, Gov. Chap Nhalyuoud of Siem Reap province, the site of the famed Angkor Wat temples, hosted a dinner by candlelight for the De Venecia party at the poolside of the Grand Angkor Hotel in Siem Reap.

* * *

The icing on the cake was the touch of class displayed by Prince Ranariddh, a suave highly cultured aristocrat who inherited the flair and continental taste of his father, King Norodom Sihanouk. Ranariddh and his wife arrived at Angkor Wat early last Saturday morning by helicopter and hosted breakfast for the Filipino visitors right in the ruins of the magnificent Bayon Temple in the Angkor complex. The elegant breakfast, complete with damask table cloths and silverware and meals cooked right there, featured as cultural fare beautiful Cambodian classical dancers, who reenacted a hunting scene of long ago, to the accompaniment of traditional music. Ranariddh told his guests that the breakfast reception at the Angkor temples was reserved only for "very special state guests."

Not content with that, the Prince, who lectures part of the year at a university in the south of France, escorted his guests all day around the various temples of the Angkor, including what's considered its crown jewel, the pink-marbled Bantaey Srey temple, annotating the tours himself. Prior to that, Ranariddh had dispatched his beautiful daughter, the French-educated Princess Ratana, to accompany the Filipino guests around Siem Reap. Ranariddh's breakfast at the Bayon was truly what we call here in street parlance "*pang-payanig*." Too bad I missed that one.

* * *

My hunch is that Ranariddh is merely returning the favor De Venecia did him when he was down and out. Ousted by a coup in July 1997 that was staged by his arch-rival, then Second Prime [illegible] Minister Hun Sen, Ranariddh fled abroad and sought political support from Asean neighbors, but an open display of support was something the countries had difficulty doing because they had to contend with the entrenched Hun Sen. One of those who welcomed the lonely Cambodian exile in Manila was De Venecia, who hosted a breakfast for him at his Dasmariñas Village home. Ranariddh never forgot this, and since then they have been good friends, and JDV is trying to entice him to join the Christian Democrat International, now renamed the Centrist Democrat International. Hearing about the details of the Bayon temple breakfast, my co-host at dzRH, Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, exclaimed, "*Lagot si* Joe. *Kailangan ngayon dadalhin niya si* Ranariddh *sa* rice-terraces of Banawe, *at doon siya maghain ng* five-star breakfast."

* * *

When I read in this newspaper about a Paul Aquino who was identified as the boyfriend of TV-radio newscaster Korina Sanchez, and who was accused with Korina by her former housemaid of throwing her out of her house, I found myself asking if this could be the same Paul Aquino who's my friend from our marching days and a top political campaign strategist? I called up my friend Paul and he said with a big laugh that I was the 100th person who had inquired about the matter since his name came out in the papers. Paul said that definitely he wasn't Korina's boyfriend as this was something his wife Melanie wouldn't countenance. But he naughtily quipped that he had not bothered to deny the rumor earlier since "at my age it's good for my image to be linked with Korina."

* * *

Cecile Alvarez and I decided to begin the new year on our Sunday evening radio program over dzRH by looking back at the old year and what we can hope for in the new. To help us, we invited Romulo Neri, associate professor of finance at the Asian Institute of Management and director general of the Congressional Planning and Budget Office, who we felt is in the best position to give us an overview, since he is familiar with approved and proposed economic legislation. He said the Philippine economy, with its 3-percent growth rate, did much better than its Asian neighbors, some of which went into a recession (negative growth for at least two consecutive quarters). But Neri added that much has to be done to seize opportunities for new funding and investments that could generate much-needed jobs. He noted that while our growth rate is better than most, we have the lowest investment in relation to gross domestic product (GDP) in Asia at only 16 percent versus, say, Indonesia's 17 percent.

* * *

Citing a specific case, Neri noted that our coconut farmers are still so dependent on copra, when the value of this commodity in the world market is now very low and this explains why their incomes are very low. What is needed is to modernize the coconut industry, and here is where the multi-billion coconut levy funds could be harnessed for the farmers—to help them modernize the industry. What Neri envisions is for the coconut farmers to get more value for their product, so as to raise their very low incomes. For instance, he recalled that in Inner Mongolia in China, he took some canned coconut juice processed in Hainan, southern China, which he found excellent. Neri said that processing the juice, which is just being thrown away, could give added income to our coconut farmers. Perhaps this project could be pushed with coco levy funds.

* * *

Neri recalled that under former President Ramos, opportunities for new investments came especially in the telecommunications field, while during former President Estrada's unfinished term the retail trade was opened up. On the other hand, the Macapagal administration is exploring ways to push investments in the housing sector and develop ports and the shipping and railway industries. The housing sector is vital, he said, as an expansion here would trigger activity in 60 allied industries, generating more job opportunities. Port operations need to be de-monopolized and privatized, he added, to make them more efficient and world-class. More efficient operations, in turn, would help move products at cheaper cost to industry. Neri pointed out that privatizing port operations and selling the properties being held by the Philippine Ports Authority could generate for the government some P200 billion.

(*To be continued*)

Taking care of our past

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

JANUARY was named after the Roman god Janus, who bore two faces, one looking toward the past, the other toward the future.

He is an apt symbol for the first month of the year, a time, at least in newsrooms, spent assessing the year just past and examining prospects for the year to come. But Janus may well be, too, the symbol for a national mission: to look back to the past and strive to study, understand, preserve and memorialize it, and to gaze toward the future, to plan, prepare and lay the ground for it.

There's a misconception, and quite common it is, that a "young" state and fledgling democracy like ours, especially one still in the throes of development, cannot "afford" to preserve the old and the historical. In the march toward progress, goes the belief, the old and traditional, the customary and historic, must give way to what is new and modern. Corollary to this is the conviction that scarce resources must be used to meet needs for the here and now, rather than "wasted" on elitist and futile efforts to hold on to the past.

This is the thinking that seems to inform the position of, say, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and his sheep-like council members. When protests were mounted against the destruction of the Jai Alai Building, and then the attempt to exploit the Mehan Gardens and the area of the Jardin Botanico, the line peddled by the mayor and his minions was that the protesters were standing in the way of progress. As if progress could be attained only by destroying all vestiges of the past.

But the trashing of Manila and other cities in the metropolis is only one consequence of our neglect of history and heritage. How could people be expected to take care of their surroundings if they have no love for them, and know nothing of their value and meaning? Contrary to what Atienza and company think, without an appreciation of the past, there can be no progress—only deterioration.

* * *

IRONICALLY, it seems that foreign governments and officials seem more interested in preserving our historical heritage than many of our local leaders.

An even greater irony is that it's a former colonizer, Spain, which has taken the lead in efforts, in partnership with the Philippine government, to preserve the most important artifacts of the past, especially fragile and vulnerable documents. Ten years in conceptualizing, planning and negotiating, the Philippine National Archives Modernization Project, in the words of consultant Simone Frieiro, "passed through different people, different collaborators and different points of view." In the beginning, she said, the priority was the conversion into microfilm of the documents in the archives' keeping, especially the "holdings" concerning the Spanish period in the Philippines, mainly the 18th and 19th centuries. But in the course of the work, notes Frieiro, other needs of the archives emerged.

In 1999, the Tavera Foundation, an institution dedicated to preserving documentary heritage related to Spanish culture, was invited to administer the project. Frieiro, who represents the Tavera Foundation, outlines the main tasks in regard to the Archives Modernization project:

"Firstly, the main concerns of its directors were related to providing the proper infrastructure to the Archives as a whole, which means, new depositories, new conservation laboratory and other features. In the last phase of the Project, the consolidation phase, their aim is to give the most advanced tools to the employee corps of the Archives, in order to enable them to access the existing knowledge resources and improve their own." It is also aimed at building the employees' capacity to use and take the best advantage of the new infrastructure and facilities provided.

* * *

FRIEIRO got on board last July for the last phase. A historian, she holds two master's degrees in Information Technology and Archival Science and is a doctoral student in Documentation Science. Though of Spanish heritage, Frieiro is actually Brazilian, her father having been a Spanish OCW who brought his family over to Brazil in the years when the Spanish economy was in the doldrums and the country was still considered the "Third World of Europe."

She worked for 13 years managing historical archival holdings in the Brazilian National Archives, and before this she served as an assessor in the National Archives Council of Brazil. In this post, she worked on the establishment of the National Archives System and the National Archives Act, as well as other policy concerns on records management, archives conservation and related issues.

* * *

THE COUNTRY then is lucky to have the benefit of Frieiro's expertise. Her main objective in the National Archives (located at the annex building of the National Library in Luneta) is "to enforce the completion and continuity of the technical work and maintain standards and methodology." To carry out these objectives, Frieiro created three teams, the main implementing team called the Arrangement Team, and two support teams: Information Technology and the Depository Team.

Pretty soon, says Frieiro, "the academic and professional community of historians, professors, journalists, scientists, teachers, students, lawyers, etc. from the Philippines and other countries, will have available, through the databases of information, the rich sources conserved by the National Archives, one of the most important Asian archives." The public, she adds, will also find it easier to gain access to historical documents, and, it is hoped, in the process develop a greater appreciation for our culture and a more meaningful reading of what it means to be a Filipino.

Of course, it makes sense for the Spanish government to be so concerned about the preservation of our historical records, as these have a bearing on one of the most important periods of Spanish history. But it is, first and foremost, our history, and we must be grateful to friends for caring enough about our past to help us forge our future.

Effects of Argentina's collapse spread

NEWS ANALYSIS

Jose Antonio Puertas

WASHINGTON—The effects of Argentina's economic woes will be felt throughout the Americas, crippling the Mercosur trade bloc and jeopardizing plans for a hemispheric free trade area, analysts in the United States said.

The first victims will be neighboring Brazil and Uruguay, which will likely endure tighter foreign credit at a higher interest rate, as well as slower economic growth, according to the analysts.

The US Treasury Department has said there is no evidence of contagion to other countries. But to deal with the Argentine peso devaluation, late Friday the Uruguayan government announced it was accelerating its own currency devaluation to 2.4 percent a month, and allowing it to float on a broader band. Uruguayans have been flocking to banks to snap up dollars since late December, fearing their neighbor—which buys 20 percent of Uruguay's exports—would be in deep trouble.

Norman Bailey, a former adviser on international economic affairs for the US National Security Council, believes the Argentine crisis could be a fatal blow for Mercosur, the southern cone customs union that includes Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, plus associate members Chile and Bolivia. "It is unlikely that Mercosur will survive except, perhaps, as a simple free trade area, and even then, probably with exceptions," Bailey wrote in an analysis distributed by the Center for International Strategic Studies.

The policies and the credibility of the United States in Latin America will also be affected, said Walter Molano, an economist with BCP Securities. By denying Argentina support, the government of President George W. Bush seriously damaged the policies promoted by Washington over the past two decades, such as widespread privatization, opening markets to foreign investors, and most importantly, the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) project, Molano told AFP. The FTAA, due to be negotiated by 2005, was envisioned as a tariff-free area stretching from Canada down to Chile, including the United States.

Bailey agrees, saying that the Argentine crisis will give ammunition to those who criticize globalization and political cooperation with the United States. "The Argentine crisis is certain to strengthen...anti-globalism and anti-Americanism," Bailey said, noting that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez "is currently the most prominent champion of those forces."

"The perception is almost universal in Argentina that the country's close adherence to the foreign policy goals of the United States during both the (Carlos) Menem and (Fernando) de la Rua administrations earned it nothing in US support when the chips were down, and that therefore the policy was stupid," said Bailey. "That is a 'lesson' that is likely to be learned by other countries in the hemisphere."

Another fallout of the crisis will be that multilateral lending organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will lose credibility and influence. In the 1990s, both the US Treasury Department and the IMF presented Argentina as a model of free-market reforms for developing nations around the world. But now many analysts believe the IMF supported and financed the wrong economic policies, prolonging and deepening Argentina's financial crisis.

Lionel Price, the chief economist with Fitch Ratings in London, wrote in a letter to the Financial Times that by September 2001 Argentina's economy had deteriorated so much that the IMF was clearly "throwing good money after bad."

The IMF and private lenders need "to be given incentives to resist lending more rather than recognizing reality," he wrote. "If the IMF were to suffer some loss on this last extension of credit to Argentina, its board would be less willing to act so foolishly in the future," he concluded.

Early Sunday Argentine deputies passed a package of measures ending the peso's parity with the dollar and giving the government emergency powers to restructure the country's shattered economy. Eliminating the peso's parity with the dollar is the cornerstone of the legislation, which gives emergency powers to President Eduardo Duhalde for two years. *AFP*

If

YOUNGBLOOD

Popo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IF I could have my way, I would build my mother the most fantastic house, more fantastic than Erap's mansions, for my mother deserves one more than his mistresses. I would have *capiz* windows, a large terrace, overlooking a garden of flowers. I'd put all the luxuries in it, including a kidney shaped swimming pool and air-conditioned rooms, in payment for all the sacrifices she has made for our family.

I would also give my father lots of socks because he jogs a lot, and I'd buy him the best running shoes in the world. I'd give him a lifetime supply of Fundador, so he can get drink whenever he feels like it; this is for all the overtime work he has put in and for working even on Christmas Day just so I can study in a private school.

I'd tell my older sister to quit her job and rest. I'd let her sleep from 9 p.m. up to 11 a.m. and I wouldn't do anything that could disturb her. All this for incurring huge debts just so she could contribute to my tuition.

I'd tell my older brother to go home so we could watch the "Majinboo Saga" together while eating Lucky Me hot chili pancit canton. This for the money he sent for my books when I was in Grade 4.

If I could have my way, I'd take away all the cancer cells in my aunt's breast and wipe out the fear that my sister, me and our female cousins might inherit it. I'd give her hope, all the hope she needs, prayers so that God would grant that she be cured of this terrible disease, and my love and support.

I would also make the world accept the victims of AIDS, and make people realize that those victims didn't want to have it in the first place but that's their fate.

If I could have my way, I'd build a large playground for all the kids of the world especially for the Afghan children, who seem to have spent their childhood in shelters or running away from bombs and bullets. I'd let them play all night and day so that they would forget even if only for a moment the cruelty of war.

I'd give a big hug to the children who are victims of abuse, by neighbors, by friends, and even those who should take care of them.

If I could have my way, I'd tell politicians to stop bickering and complaining that the opposition did this or this government sucks, and all that blah, blah, blah. I'd make them aware that actions—not words matter. I would tell them what I have read somewhere: "What this country needs is a few people telling what this country needs."

If I could have my way, I would abolish racial discrimination. All people are born in equality, no one is above the other, and the only difference among people is their income.

I'd make Muslims and Christians live with each other in peace. I would let them see that even a Muslim or a Christian can be an instrument of peace. Let them realize we only have one God. Whether he is Allah or Yahweh or Lord, He is still the Great One who made us and the world!

If I could have my way, I'd take all the pains of growing up and cast them away so that teenagers wouldn't have a hard time and wouldn't resort to vices or even suicide. I would tell them that life is God's gift and we should rise to the challenges of growing up.

If I could have my way, I'd give my best friend lots of pizza bread every day to make up for all the nagging he gets from his mother and me.

If I could have my way, I'd get all the four books of Harry Potter (hardbound) and ask J.K. Rowlings for her autograph, and keep all the toys just for me and my brod Andy.

I'd also buy the original CD of Linkin Park's "Hybrid Theory," play it loud and jam, using a broom as a guitar and screaming, "I'm one step closer to the edge I'm about to break!" Cool.

Lastly, I'd kick his girlfriend's ass and his, too, for making me look stupid and fooling me.

If I only I could have my way.

Popo, 15, is a high school student in Marikina.

Kind strangers

Chary Lou Navarro Defante

ONE of the stories mother often read to me when I was young was that of "Little Red Riding Hood." And every time she finished reading, she would remind me: "Strangers cannot be trusted. So don't talk to them. Look what happened to Little Red Riding Hood!"

Remembering Little Red Riding Hood and believing my mother's warning, I became aloof to strangers. However, this attitude changed five days after I got married on Dec. 18, 1999.

For our return trip to Iloilo City after spending our honeymoon in Bohol, my husband and I boarded the M/S South Korea. A few hours after it left the port of Tagbilaran, the ship ran aground off Bantayan Island in Cebu and quickly sank early in the morning of Dec. 23.

This tragedy introduced into my life several strangers. I don't even know the names of some of them, but I will always remember all their faces and their good deeds for the rest of my life. They are:

- The crew members of the M/V Edago who rescued us from the stormy sea where we had been floating for eight hours. They saw us being tossed by gigantic waves, helped us aboard their ship and fed us with what was left of their provisions: *lugaw* and a few packs of noodles cooked in a big casserole filled with water so that hundreds of hungry mouths fished out of the sea could eat. They brought us safely to the Salazar Shipping Institute in Sta. Fe, Cebu;
- The owners and staff of the Salazar Shipping Institute who took us in and fed us our first real meal for the day consisting of rice, *dilis*, sardines, bread, and black coffee. (Even without sugar, the coffee tasted heavenly.)
- The folks of Sta. Fe who at the unholy hour of 2 a.m. braved the rough waters and the chilling wind to ferry me and other injured survivors to the Bantayan Island District Hospital.
- The doctors and nurses at the hospital who attended to my fractured right ankle and to my husband's bruises which we sustained from jumping off the ship. And the social workers who gave us slippers, underwear, toothbrushes and a toothpaste.
- The handsome pilot of the plane that airlifted us to Cebu City and who gave me a pack of BluSkies soda crackers saying, "*Eto na lang ang natira, o. Pasensyahan mo na lang.*";
- The alert and on-the-ball soldiers of Villamor Air Base in Cebu City who facilitated our transfer to Chong Hua Hospital;
- George Tio, the administrator of Chong Hua Hospital, who let my husband make long distance calls for free to our families in Iloilo City. Dr. Eddie Yap and his team of doctors who spent Christmas operating on my fractured ankle; the cheerful nurses (yeah, I remember two of them dancing the swing in the recovery room); and the staff who treated me with gentle care and patience, making my four days of confinement comfortable.
- Jessie Lim, the operations manager of Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. Inc., Cebu Plant, who after being contacted by my husband's Manila-based uncle, Herni Defante, with his wife searched and looked for us at Chong Hua Hospital and brought us fresh *lumpia* and apples, which my husband and I had for our *noche buena*. They bought us some clothes and gave us money for my hospital needs.

o Nena Sogocio, a DSWD social worker who paid us visits and even gave us P100.

o Manang Virgie, a fellow survivor of the sea tragedy, who offered us a place to stay in Cebu City.

They were all strangers to me, and I to them, but they treated us with kindness. These acts of kindness saved not only my husband's life and mine, and the short encounter we had with them proved that strangers can also be trusted.

Now, I have recovered from the trauma, my ankle has healed, and I'm a mother to a nine-month-old baby girl. Someday, I will also tell her the story of Little Red Riding Hood—and of my own experience with strangers, of course.

Chary Lou Navarro Defante, 27, is a member of the faculty of Iloilo National High School.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Government budget for health budget is sick

IT leaves me gasping for breath to see the government allocate in its 2002 national budget a very emaciated P11.3 billion for the Department of Health. This department should have been given a much bigger slice of the pie.

The allocation translates into only P150 for every Filipino a year. Unfortunately, this amount will be greatly reduced since Erap will be wasting millions of pesos for hospital bills, and thus depriving millions of indigents of medical care.

Sadly, if we look at the appropriation for health services, P11.3 billion makes up only 1.1 percent of the national budget of P780 billion. The DOH ranks only eighth in terms of the size of its budget.

And yet, Congress has increased the allocation for debt service to a scandalous P360 billion. The defense department allocation has increased by almost 40 percent and now amounts to P60.2 billion.

Among all the sectors, health has by far gotten the smallest increase in the budget. This does not speak well of the administration's priorities or its concept of good governance. The administration is showing that it is regrettably pro-war, pro-foreign creditors and anti-poor. The budget aims to isolate people rather than unite, because it is designed to kill instead of heal. It is bullet-laden and not health-driven. I am afraid that we are building a warlike tribe instead of peaceful community.

It is a sick budget indeed. We know that a sick budget is reflective of a sick government. And this is because it is a gross inequity to underspend for health care when the government spends several times more on defense. It is treacherous to spend hundreds of billion on debt service and therefore serve the rich and powerful nations, while the government plays deaf to the plight of the poor who are dying due to lack of health care. It is also reprehensible to overspend in certain regions, cities and institutions while disproportionately under-spending in areas that are far from the nation's capital.

The national budget should reflect the collective aspirations, dreams, interests and concerns of the people. To undermine it is a crime and betrayal of public trust.

LETTERS

I believe that the first effective line of defense for a healthier Philippines is to allocate 5 percent of the national budget on health. Right now, it is only 1.1 percent. What a sick health budget indeed!—**JERRY R. MANLANGIT, OP, regent, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Ecclesiastical Adviser, Catholic Physicians Guild of the Philippines**

NOEL I. CAPARROS

Anti-dog ordinance being proposed in Manila

I READ, with utter disgust, the news item on the proposed ordinance of Councilor J. Logarta on canines.

I may not be a dog lover; in fact, I'm kind of scared of dogs. But I know that's my problem, not the dogs', so why penalize them? Following the sequence of what was published, this is what I have to say.

The proposal, which is worse than stray dogs, reeks of so much anti-animal sentiment that it stinks like garbage. No, it is garbage. Don't we have enough of that all over Metro Manila?

Of course, dogs bark, just as cats meow and birds chirp. Constant barking is annoying, but this happens only when they're in heat, or when they are suspicious of a stranger's entry into home. It does not happen every day of the year. Nuisance comes at election time when we hear campaign jingles and messages being blared from oversized speakers on a slow-moving vehicle. Can the citizens ask for their "immediate disposal" to include the candidates? Can I curse without earning God's ire?

It is the duty of the city pound to go after stray dogs, and therefore this proposal is redundant. There used to be a time when health department workers went from door to door to give dogs anti-rabies shots. No budget? Or is it mismanaged budget? Let's do away with those billboards that announce projects being undertaken, with the names of the mayor, councilors and barangay officials in letters that are bigger than the projects themselves.

There is an unnecessary sermon about the responsibilities of pet owners. Responsible owners are aware of that. Irresponsible owners won't understand that. Is not education more effective than an ordinance?

To limit ownership of dogs to two is ridiculous. What happens then if, heaven forbid, every household in Logarta's district has two dogs? Will he file another ordinance? The fact is, only a minority of residents in his district keep dogs as house pets. If we were to distribute the dogs equally among every household in Manila, there's bound to be a shortage of dogs. So what's the fuss?

We should be grateful to a number of anonymous people who find time to pick up and take care of stray, diseased and malformed dogs, and let the hopeless cases "sleep." This kind of positive attitude ought to be encouraged, and supported, not an ordinance that is negative and thoughtless. Some breed dogs for a living. Is that going to be outlawed?

Without having to read between the lines, it is very clear that Logarta is encouraging the consumption of "*azucena,*" especially when the barangay authorities become "empowered to cause it's immediate disposal." That would be a good excuse for barangay officials who drink themselves to stupor to maim or cause these dogs to become "nuisance and subject to destruction" so that they can have *pulutan*.

Not surprisingly, this ordinance is going to be another moneymaking venture. The alderman wants a registration fee of P150 per dog. If the less privileged can't afford that, presumably they lose the right to own one.

I've seen vendors who let their dogs watch their wares. Some households have dogs to secure the little that they own, and they are safer and cheaper than guns and goons.

How, may I ask, did he arrive at P150? A dog tag, when purchased in bulk, would cost P20 at most. Where will the remainder go? Oh, but the answer is very obvious.

This councilor is a district representative. Does his proposal truly represent the collective voice of his constituents, or is there a race among council members to file the biggest number of ordinances?—**NADJA S. BASERON, M.H. Del Pilar Street, Malate, Manila**

Wasteful use of funds for half a century

I SAW no valid reason for increasing the P5.67 billion in pork barrel funds, now called the Priority Development Assistance Funds or PDAFs in the General Appropriations Act for 2002. It only means happy days are here again for our lawmakers.

I also found it unethical for Rep. Oscar Moreno to say that there was nothing wrong with providing members of Congress with higher PDAFs. It will be recalled that most, if not all, members of Congress have been spending wastefully pork barrel funds for more than half a century. Even if it is named Priority Development Assistance Funds, or Countrywide Development Fund as before, it still partakes of the nature of pork barrel funds.

In the past decades, projects funded out of the pork barrel funds or CDF did not serve the purpose for which they were constructed. Due to poor engineering and construction resulting from very limited funds that were reduced by rampant graft and corruption in government, most of the infrastructures became white elephants.

If the P5.67 billion were added to the appropriations for the Department of Education, the perennial problems of acute shortage of school buildings and text books would have been a thing of the past and the clamor for more teachers in elementary schools would have been answered in the next school year.

Additional funding will, in no small measure, help save the deteriorating educational system in the country. This would have been the best legacy of the present leadership.—**GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR., J.P. Rizal Street, Daet, Camarines Norte**

DOLE signing bonus separate from Christmas bonus

WE write in response to Rina Jimenez-David's column regarding the DOLE-Employees Union last Dec. 21, 2001. Apparently, she did not have the full details of what happened. We hope this will help clarify matters.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas issued Administrative Order 287 (AO 287) detailing the guidelines for the grant of an additional cash benefit of P5,000 for all DOLE employees based on a Malacañang directive in June 2001. However, it specifically stated that "for employees not covered by any Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA), the benefit of P5,000 shall be characterized as extra Christmas bonus as authorized under DBM Circular No. 2001-02. For employees covered by CNAs incorporating a provision on signing bonus, P3,000 of the P5,000 shall be characterized as signing bonus as authorized under DBM Circular No. 2001-04, and shall be credited as compliance with the provision of the applicable CNA. The remaining P2,000 shall be characterized as extra Christmas bonus."

For the more than 2,000 rank-and-file employees of the DOLE main offices (including the regional offices), and members of the DOLE-EU, who happen to comprise almost 95 percent of the whole DOLE workforce, giving a smaller amount as Christmas bonus is unfair labor practice on the part of no less than the labor secretary. For union members who are aware that being organized/unionized is their only weapon for fighting for their rights and welfare, this is no minor issue. We know that the signing bonus is a separate benefit won upon the conclusion of CNA and we know we all have a right to receive the same amount of extra Christmas bonus.

What is P5,000? That is a lot for a family that is not expecting any benefit for Christmas, for a union member who cried foul, and for a union that follows procedures and processes under an agreement with management? It may be incomprehensible for people who are never financially wanting or people who have the clout so that their rights are not easily trampled upon.

So what do the employees want? For AO 287 to be amended or revoked so that its provisions would treat all DOLE employees, especially union members, fairly.—**JOSE GLEN I. TRAMPE, national president, Employees Union (DOLE-EU-Courage), Department of Labor and Employment, Rm. 402, OWWA Center Bldg., 7th St. cor. F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City**

Are you ready for retirement?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'VE been asking how much retired Filipinos are getting each month from the Social Security System (SSS) and I have been told they were getting as low as P1,600 and as "high" as P2,800. Reading the SSS primer, I figured that if you've been in the highest income bracket and properly remitted your contributions, you'd be eligible for about P4,800 each month.

Wealthy Filipinos rightly scoff at the SSS and GSIS checks as loose change. Many of them rely on their own savings, sometimes living off the bank interest, but for most retired Filipinos, it's living on the edge with meager savings.

The UP Population Institute (UPPI) conducted a Philippine Elderly Study (PES) in 1996 and found out that only 10 percent were receiving pension checks. Slightly more than half of the elderly received money from their children in the past year, but the amounts were paltry, mostly less than P1,000.

It's interesting, too, that the UPPI found 15 percent of the elderly population were actually still contributing, financially, to help their children. A third of our *lolos* and *lolas* were also contributing in kind to their children's families. Our economically active population—demographically defined as those aged 15 to 64—is simply under too much of a strain just providing for the young and often end up running to *lolo* and *lola* for help.

Elderly Filipinos live very simple and austere lives but will often have tremendous personal expenditures, mainly for health reasons. Even the healthiest among the elderly will have some chronic ailment, for example high blood pressure, which requires daily medication, and the costs can run to several thousands of pesos each month. The UPPI survey found 38 percent of the elderly were in debt, mostly relying on informal sources including friends, relatives and even usurers.

The government's response remains limited to the SSS/GSIS retirement checks, and the discounts for senior citizens' medicines and food. The discounts are useful but have little use when catastrophic illnesses strike—for example, a stroke.

I'm afraid the current generation of elderly people will have to rely on the limited options we have today, but it's time we started thinking of the options for the other "near-gray" generations. Those aged over 60 numbered about 4 million in 1995 and by the year 2020, that will swell to 11.3 million (including, I just realized, youngsters like myself).

What are the alternatives? Batanes Rep. Butch Abad has proposed a bill that would create a new retirement fund, still government-regulated but allowing more options. Dubbed PERA (Personal Equity and Retirement Income), the scheme would allow us to set aside a certain amount of our incomes for investment, to be automatically deducted from our paychecks. Government would accredit certain fund managers and investment vehicles to take such funds, which would hold them until you retire. The most important provision here is that such investments would be tax-free.

This is all very similar to the "US-401(k)" scheme, named after the US Internal Revenue Code provision which covers such investments. There are all kinds of variations on these schemes. For example, some companies offer to match their employees' investments: for every dollar an employee puts in, the employer might offer a dollar as well for the retirement fund.

Such schemes allow more flexibility than social security, and are worth studying. Right now, we are totally dependent on the SSS and the GSIS and suffer when the institutions are hit by inefficiency or corruption. Allowing the private sector to come in allows for some competition under proper government regulation, with citizens having choices on which fund managers to use.

Unfortunately, the Department of Finance has opposed Representative Abad's bill, mainly on the basis of concern that the government does not have the administrative capability to verify contributions to PERA. I suspect that the real reason is that a PERA fund might mean revenue losses for the government.

I am not saying we should abolish SSS and GSIS contributions. It's important we learn from other neighboring countries to get the right mix of public and private sector participation. Capitalist Malaysia and Singapore, for example, depend much more on government-generated social security funds. Socialist China, on the other hand, has used only government pension funds but is now considering the possibility of allowing Chinese workers a greater say in how social security payments can be invested to create pension funds.

The point here is that people need to have options, to feel their paycheck deductions are going to be invested well and yield benefits. At present, people see SSS and GSIS deductions as unnecessary burdens, with far too little returns. Those who are able to save some money have few options for investments because stocks and other investment vehicles still require much too large amounts beyond what the average Filipino can put in (and, given the present economic climate, are also far too risky).

There are so many angles that need to be studied in relation to retirement. Ironically, one reason we are not able to generate enough resources for the elderly is population pressure; yet many Filipinos choose to have many children because they see those children as old-age insurance. Until the government creates viable alternatives for the elderly, we will continue to see a never-ending cycle of dependence, of more elderly people supporting the young, rather than the other way around.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Make pensions for National Artists realistic

BELINDA Olivares-Cunanan, in her column last Jan. 3, 2002, wrote that during the time of President Fidel V. Ramos the government started giving out a P24,000 monthly pension to our National Artists in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the country.

Cunanan, quoting Ramos, noted that the pension was approved at a time when the peso-dollar exchange stood at P26 to one dollar. Since the current exchange rate has ballooned to P52, she said, "the stipend has become woefully inadequate." She urged the government to adjust the pension accordingly.

I agree with this observation. The government should move fast to increase the pension. Let us not force our National Artists to go the way of Nick Joaquin who allowed his "Summer Solstice" to be corrupted in the trashy movie "Tatarin." This poor movie version deserves to be on the chopping block—"*para tadtarin*."—**REYLITO A.H. ELBO, chief strategist, Deming Management Systems, 6/F L.V. Locsin Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Evidence on Desierto case remains unheard

KINDLY allow me a reply to the systematic lying emanating from the Office of the Ombudsman.

I have been accused by certain officials of fabricating the impeachment charges against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto. But how can they say that the charges were fabricated when I was not even allowed to speak and the evidence which I submitted were not even accepted and considered by the House committee on justice? How can anyone say I am lying when not one among the 35 representatives, many of them lawyers, dared to cross-examine me?

The officials also accused me of lying when I said that the Office of the Ombudsman sat on the Petron tax diversion case "to protect the bank of (Luke) Roxas." Like the representatives who junked the impeachment complaint against Desierto, these officials either did not read my complaint or are simply lying. Otherwise, they would have noted that there were two case referrals made to the Ombudsman, one by the Bureau of Customs and the other, by the National Bureau of Investigation. The Ombudsman sat on the NBI referral. In fact, this is the reason why Desierto does not want a full-blown hearing for then he will never be able to explain why he sat on the NBI case referral.

In its case referral, the NBI asked Desierto to conduct a preliminary investigation of Arnulfo Cabalza of Skybound Realty Holdings, Enrique Resurreccion of Bank of Southeast Asia ("BSA"), Teofilo Guerra of Petron Corp., and Rodolfo Gonzales and Nestorio Ambagan of the BOC. Based on the NBI investigation, Cabalza and Resurreccion were the principal players in the criminal syndicate that stole P539 million in check payments for customs duties from the BOC. The P539 million was in fact deposited in the accounts of Cabalza and Skybound Realty Holdings in Roxas' BSA and the bulk of it was later withdrawn, with the help of Resurreccion. To date, Desierto has yet to investigate Cabalza and Resurreccion. And he has yet to file charges against Cabalza and Resurreccion.

The big question is, why did Desierto fail to investigate Cabalza and Resurreccion and to file charges against them for the past four years especially considering that P539 million in taxpayers' money was involved? Roxas merely asked Desierto to delay the investigation for a few months in 1997. Did anyone else talk to Desierto? Isn't this a clear case of culpable violation of the Constitution and betrayal of public trust, both impeachable offenses?

The evidence against Desierto will show that his very own graft investigators who investigated the BOC case referral even requested him for clearance to proceed against the private individuals involved. No such clearance or order was given. Why?

True he acted on the BOC case referral because the BOC commissioner then was following it up. The BOC case referral did not include any private individual, only the BOC personnel involved. The graft investigators recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against port collector Rodolfo Gonzales, deputy collector Renato Pangilinan and cashier Nesorio Ambagan. Only Ambagan was eventually charged with three counts of falsification of public documents before the regional trial court of Balanga, Bataan, in 1999. A few months later, the case against Ambagan was dismissed for the failure of the complainant, the Office of Ombudsman, to prosecute the case.

Finally, these Ombudsman officials said that Rep. Oscar Moreno "was abandoned by the more competent members of the then congressional prosecution team." In the first place, who are they to judge the competence of Moreno? Moreover, instead of personally attacking him, they should instead bare the names of the representatives and their political allies who have cases pending with the Office of the Ombudsman or owe Desierto for some past favors.—**ERNESTO B. FRANCISCO JR., lawyer, E.B. Francisco Jr. Law Office, Suite 805, Greenbelt Mansion, 106 Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

SINGAPORE ARRESTS

Suspected terrorists targeted US Embassy

SINGAPORE—Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants arrested in Singapore were planning to blow up the US Embassy and American business interests in the city-state, an official said Monday.

Recent arrests in Singapore and neighboring Malaysia have uncovered a suspected terrorist network in Southeast Asia linked to Osama bin Laden, raising concerns that the region's close ties to Washington could make it a target for terrorism.

Security around embassies and other sensitive areas in Singapore has been beefed up. Police on Monday set up a roadblock outside the Israeli Embassy and armed Gurkhas—elite Nepalese fighters who help maintain security across the region—are guarding Singapore's American Club.

Gurkhas have been guarding the US Embassy since Sept. 11.

Defense Minister Tony Tan on Sunday said 15 suspects arrested in Singapore in December had planned to blow up embassies and military installations, but he did not say which ones.

Home Affairs Ministry spokesperson Ong-Chew Peck Wan said Monday that "the US Embassy and US commercial entities were the principal targets" in Singapore.

A US Embassy spokesperson, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Singapore and the United States were "cooperating closely" and that the United States was confident Singapore could secure US interests on the island.

The 15 suspects, 14 Singaporeans and one Malaysian, were arrested after authorities found detailed information on bomb construction and photographs and video footage of targeted buildings in Singapore in the suspects' homes and offices.

Al-Qaida-linked materials, falsified passports and forged immigration stamps were also found, said a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs, which oversees police and internal security.

Tan told Singapore's NewsRadio that the country was vulnerable to terrorism because of its close links with the United States.

American companies are one of the Southeast Asian city-state's largest employers. Singapore recently opened a deep water Navy base which was built specifically to accommodate giant US aircraft carriers.

The suspects have links to militant groups in Malaysia and Indonesia, the ministry statement said. Malaysian police have arrested 13 people since Dec. 9 on suspicion of being members of an extremist group with possible links to three men accused of involvement in the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

The 15—some of whom are members of Singapore's armed forces—were detained under Singapore's Internal Security Act, which allows people to be held indefinitely without trial. *AP*

BRITAIN Prime Minister's wife, Cherie Blair, tries on a Banjara tribal dress at a display of local wares in the Indian village of Vattem, Andhra Pradesh, on the second leg of Prime Minister Tony Blair's three-nation tour of South Asia Jan. 6. Blair began talks late on Sunday with his Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee aimed at defusing a tense military standoff between India and Pakistan. REUTERS

Blair seeks to ease India-Pakistan row

NEW DELHI—British Prime Minster Tony Blair shuttles to Islamabad on Monday in a bid to defuse tensions between nuclear powers India and Pakistan, as each accuses the other of losing an unmanned spy plane in disputed Kashmir.

His brief visit to the Pakistani capital follows a meeting in New Delhi with Indian Prime Minster Atal Behari Vajpayee, who Blair said was willing to talk with Pakistan if it rejected terrorism in all its forms.

India and Pakistan, long-time foes, are massing their forces along the border in what is considered one of their most dangerous buildups since independence in 1947. They have fought three wars since then, two over Kashmir.

India said on Sunday its troops had fired on an unmanned Pakistani spy plane which crossed the ceasefire line into its territory, but Pakistan immediately denied this, saying instead India had lost one of its own spy planes.

At least three people died in the latest round of mortar and heavy machinegun firing between the opposing armies in Kashmir in what has become an almost daily firefight since the Dec. 13 attack on India's parliament triggered the latest tensions.

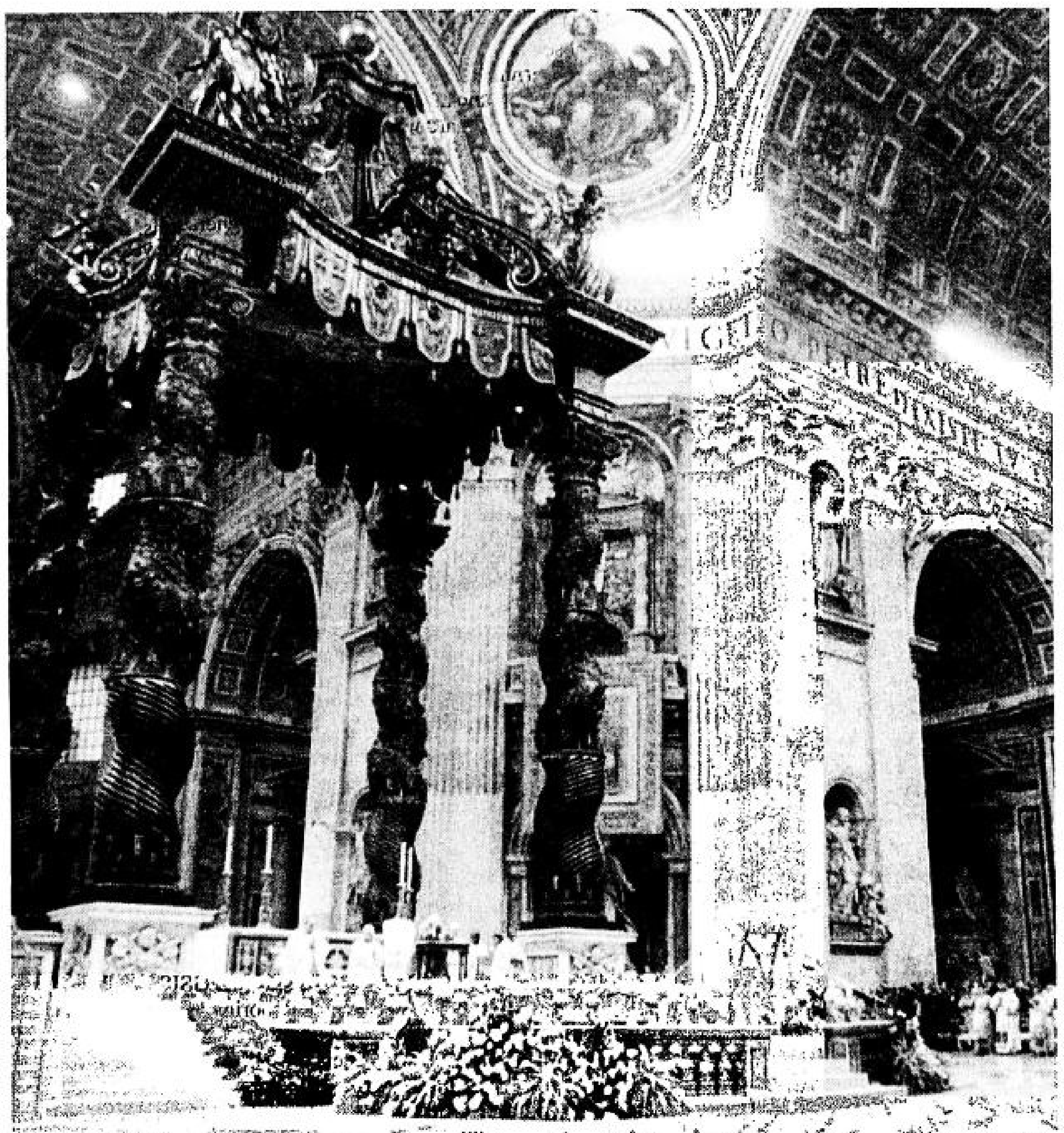
Vajpayee and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf left a summit of regional leaders in Nepal on Sunday no closer to peace talks to defuse the crisis.

The pair shook hands in Katmandu, but Vajpayee said they exchanged only pleasantries and discussed nothing substantial.

India blames two Pakistani-based groups fighting its rule in Kashmir for the suicide raid on parliament that killed 14, including the five assailants.

New Delhi has repeatedly demanded Islamabad end support for Islamic rebels fighting for independence for Kashmir—the only Muslim-majority state in mainly Hindu India—or its merger into Pakistan.

Under pressure from the United States, its new partner in the global war on terrorism, Pakistan has cracked down on the two groups. *Reuters*



REUTERS

NEWLY ordained bishops lie prostrate in front of Pope John Paul II during a ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica Jan. 6. The Pontiff also held a Mass to celebrate The Epiphany, seen as the culmination of the Christmas festive period.

Pontiff ordains 10 bishops

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II decried Sunday that the true spirit of the Christmas season was being overshadowed by consumerism and urged the faithful to focus on its original meaning.

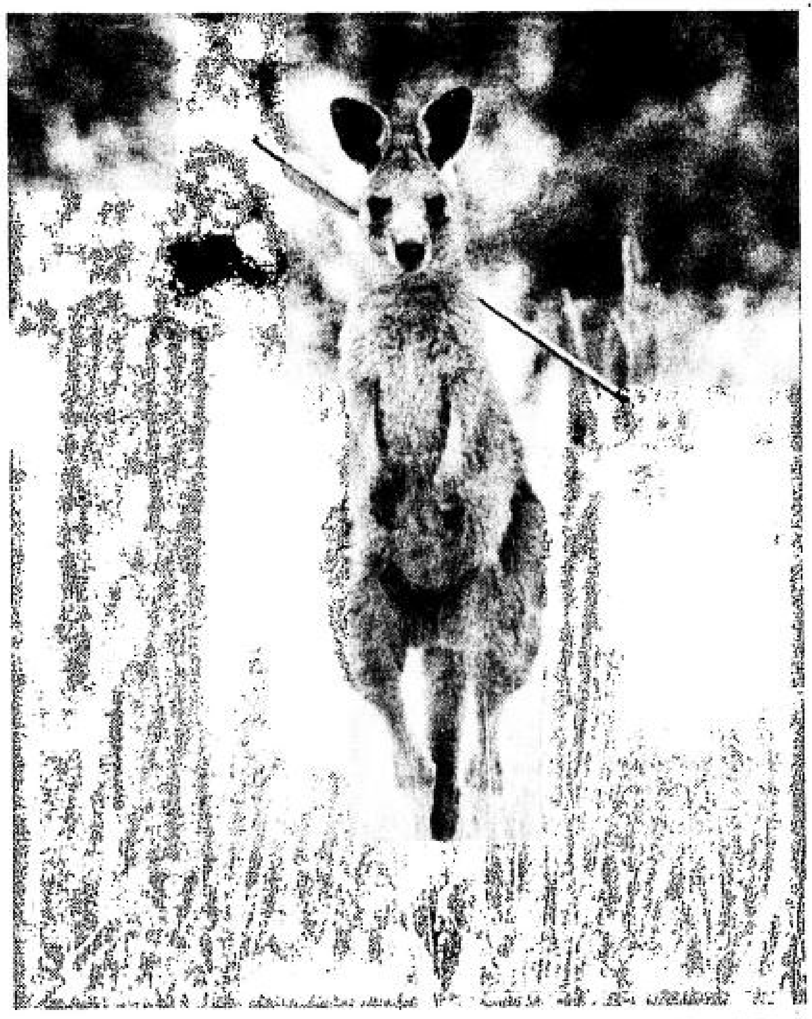
The Pontiff made the comments as he ordained 10 new bishops in a ritual-filled Mass celebrating Epiphany, the day that Catholics believe the three kings, guided by a star over Bethlehem, visited the infant Jesus.

"How suggestive is the symbol of the star in the iconography of Christmas and Epiphany!" John Paul said in his homily. "Today it still evokes profound sentiments, even if it sometimes risks—as with so many other sacred signs—becoming banalized by the consumerist use that is made of it."

He told the 10 new bishops—five from Italy, two from the Republic of Congo, and one each from Congo, Portugal and the Philippines—that they represented the "light of the people and hope of the world."

After pledging their loyalty to the church, the 10 then lay prostrate before John Paul on the altar of St. Peter's Basilica in a sign of submission and humility. After rising, each received the Pope's blessing, a red cap and miter—the tall peaked hat—as well as the bishop's ring, staff and holy book.

John Paul, who suffers from the symptoms of Parkinson's disease, seemed to fade over the course of the three-hour-long Mass, and only used one hand to bless the bishops' heads rather than both. *AP*



A YOUNG Eastern grey kangaroo hops through the Woodlands Historic Park near Melbourne with an arrow in her back on Jan 3, eluding rangers and veterinarians on a mercy mission to save her. The kangaroo is the latest victim of Australian thrill-seeking hunters who use wildlife as targets for a variety of weapons, including crossbows and longbows. REUTERS

US jets bomb eastern Afghanistan

KABUL/WASHINGTON—US jets bombed eastern Afghanistan, targeting remnants of al-Qaida, as an intensive hunt continued for fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and Uzbek intelligence said Osama bin Laden was most likely in Pakistan.

The leader of Afghanistan's interim administration, Hamid Karzai, said on Sunday Omar was still at large but that forces were still searching for him and he was determined to arrest the cleric sought by the United States.

In Singapore, the government said it believed it has broken up a network of militants targeting the US Embassy and American businesses after arresting 15 people with suspected links to Bin Laden's al-Qaida group.

In the United States, police gave details of a suicide note that appeared to show the lone 15-year-old who flew a light plane into a high-rise office block in Tampa was inspired by the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

A US senator said Uzbek intelligence officials told him Bin Laden, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed more than 3,000 people, had probably fled Afghanistan for Pakistan.

Democratic Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, part of a Senate delegation visiting Afghanistan's neighbors, told the "Fox News Sunday" program he was confident Pakistan would assist US efforts to hunt down and capture Bin Laden "if, in fact, he is in Pakistan."

"They are of the belief that he has now gone into Pakistan," Edwards said from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, after a meeting with intelligence officers that included a briefing on the possible whereabouts of Bin Laden. *Reuters*

Berlusconi faces uphill struggle as Ruggiero quits

ROME—Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi faced skepticism at home and abroad on Monday after the shock resignation of Italy's respected, pro-European foreign minister and his decision to take on the job himself temporarily.

Renato Ruggiero, former head of the World Trade Organization who gave Berlusconi's government much-needed credibility on the international circuit, quit as foreign minister on Saturday in a row over Italy's policy toward the European Union.

After being sworn in as interim foreign minister on Sunday, Berlusconi told reporters that Italy remained committed to closer European integration, but opposition parties said the political crisis had severely damaged the country's image.

Foreign political leaders were swift to heap praise on the departing Ruggiero, while Belgium warned that anti-European elements were winning the upper hand in Berlusconi's Cabinet.

Berlusconi said he planned to combine the prime minister's duties with those of the foreign minister for the foreseeable future and said he would guarantee continuity in Italian policy.

"Europe for us is an ideal, an ambition, a desire and a necessity because Europe has given us more than half a century of security, wealth, democracy and peace," he said.

Ruggiero resigned after a row with euroskeptic colleagues in the Cabinet which was played out in the Italian press and overshadowed the historic rollout of the new euro currency. *Reuters*

BERLUSCONI

Rain brings relief to Australia firemen

SYDNEY—Thousands of weary firefighters were singing in the rain on Monday as an unexpectedly heavy overnight downpour tamed some of the blazes which have ravaged New South Wales since Christmas Day.

Up to 40 mm of rain fell on major fire fronts in the Blue Mountains national park area 60 km west of Australia's biggest city Sydney and the Hawkesbury area 50 km northwest of the city.

But on the third major fire-front around 80 km south of the city in the Shoalhaven area there was no such relief for firecrews with little or no rain falling.

Around 10,000 mostly volunteer firefighters are battling up to 100 fires, many lit by arsonists, on fronts totaling 2,000 km.

Officials said 101 homes had been lost to the fires which over 14 days have burned more than 550,000 hectares, an area twice the size of Greater London.

They are the most intense since the 1994 bush fire crisis, when four people died and just over 200 homes were lost.

Fire chiefs said while the rain may have dampened down blazes on some major fire fronts, the situation was still uncertain. *Reuters*

Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Cargo ship sinks as Davao counts losses in flooding

DAVAO CITY—Huge waves sank a cargo ship off Cortes, Surigao del Sur on Sunday afternoon.

However, all 15 crewmen of LCT, a cargo vessel owned by Majestic Shipping, were rescued, a report released by the Surigao del Sur police headquarters said.

Police said the cargo ship was heading for Davao City from Isabel, Leyte, when it sank near Barangay Balibadon around 2 p.m.

Fishers who saw the sinking immediately proceeded to the area, where they rescued the crew, led by Douglas Moreno.

Weather officials said the monsoon that has been affecting many parts of the island triggered huge waves in the seas there.

In Davao City, floodwaters started to subside, but officials advised victims not to return to their homes as more rain and floods were expected.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte assured the affected families, now numbering 12,272 or 60,285 persons, that relief assistance and shelter will be provided by the city government.

Marilyn Agonia, chief of the City Social Service and Development Office, said the city has already spent P2,375,805 to purchase foodstuff like rice, sardines, noodles, and beddings for the victims.

Most of the evacuees are housed in private and public basketball courts, gyms and school buildings.

Some concerned individuals and civic organizations also extended assistance to the victims.

On Saturday, Tabang Dabaw was launched here by journalists to start a campaign for the victims of Friday's flood.

Initially, GET Holdings donated P50,000 as seed money for the campaign and some anonymous donors have started giving clothes at the Tabang Dabaw center.

The donations will be given to the urban poor community in Matina Grabahan.

Journalists who helped in the Habitat for Humanity housing project in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur in April 2000 (Media Build 2000) are also planning to help the homeless victims.

The Davao City Disaster Coordinating Council said 136 houses were destroyed while 328 others were damaged.

Aside from thousands of flood victims, more than 300,000 persons are experiencing problems in water supply after the Davao City Water District (DCWD) cut off one of its main distribution lines connected with the collapsed Maa Bridge on the Diversion Road.

Water supply in the northern areas of the city has been interrupted since Friday when a major DCWD pipeline gave way following the collapse of the bridge.

The DCWD said the interruption might last for a week.

In some areas in Southern Mindanao, torrential rain continues to cause flooding.

Carmelito Lupo, executive officer of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Southern Mindanao, said the floods in Davao City, Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley have affected some 31,300 families or 168,000 people.

In Bincungan, Carmen in Davao del Norte, hundreds of commuters were stranded on the highway, as floodwater continued to rise.

Carmen Mayor Rey Gavina said 17 barangays were submerged in water. In, Mawab, Compostela Valley, the main highway was open only to light vehicles as it remained obstructed by a landslide.

Col. Felipe Berroya, chief of the 701st Infantry Battalion, said they have sent a team to reinforce engineering personnel on the highway.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said Southern Mindanao and other parts of the country will continue to experience scattered rain showers. *Anthony Allada, Dennis Jay Santos, Ma. Kristina Cassion and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Troops told to seize AFP uniforms

MATI, Davao Oriental—"The uniform for the military should be for the military alone."

This was the order from the general headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to field commanders all over the country.

The Jan. 1, 2002 order also said "wearing of military uniforms and the like by civilians should be stopped."

Lt. Mike Colanta, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion based here, said they were given a week to disseminate the information to the public before they start confiscating military uniforms from civilians.

"We hope the public will understand us because most of the time military uniforms are used for criminal activities," he said.

"Robbers and kidnappers wear military uniforms to hide their identities. And this has really dealt a big blow to the military as an institution," Colanta added.

But Colanta admitted that many military personnel are also giving away their uniforms to relatives and friends.

"Such practice must be stopped. I think any military personnel found giving away their uniforms to their relatives or friends (should) face appropriate sanctions," he said.

Even dress shops that manufacture military pants or shirts to sell to civilians will not be spared in the confiscation drive, which is scheduled to start today.

"We will tell all those who sell military pants or shirts that it is already prohibited to sell military clothes to civilians and we will confiscate the clothes," Colanta said.

But those who sell military clothes to civilians here vowed to resist any attempt to confiscate their goods by the military, branding the move as reminiscent of the martial law period.

"Is there any law that bars us from selling military pants or shirts to civilians? I think there is none. So any confiscation will be illegal, if not despotic," said a local tailor.

"It's so cool wearing military pants or shirts because that's a fashion trend nowadays. Besides, you can make people believe that you really are a military man. Therefore, they will respect you as you can terrify them by your military pants alone," said Jason Kent Simeon, a second year college student.

But Apolinario Tasis, a high school senior, said he was nearly killed by Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels when he wore military pants during a field trip in Tarragona town.

"I was asked by the Moro rebels if I was a government soldier as I was wearing military pants then. I told them that it was just given to me by an uncle who is in the military. I was nearly killed because of my pants," Tasis said. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Labor official denies land-grabbing raps

By Cynthia A. Borgueta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—National Labor Relations Commissioner Vicente Veloso has strongly denied allegations of 189 farmers in four upland villages that he had hired goons to harass them and force them out of their lands.

He said he does not hire goons and is not capable of hurting anyone.

"Leyteños know me as pro-poor. I have helped many people in the past. I am not capable of hurting anyone especially the poor," Veloso told the INQUIRER.

The farmers had filed separate complaints on Dec. 10 before the regional offices here of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agrarian Reform, claiming they were ejected from their farms early last year by Veloso.

The petitioners claimed that since last February, heavily armed men allegedly hired by Veloso had beaten and slapped them and destroyed their houses.

The affected farmers were residents of Barangays Tabangohay, Veteranos and Cacao in AlangAlang town and in Barangays Guinsiyaman and Busay in San Miguel town.

In a letter dated Dec. 17, the farmers also urged DAR regional director Reynaldo Villas to seek the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo "so our problem with Veloso would be settled."

The request was coursed through Donata Labrento, chair of the human rights group Kalipunan ng Damayang Mahihirap (Kadamay).

But Veloso said he never hired any goons to harass the farmers or have them beaten up. He added that he did not know any of the farmers.

He also denied the farmers' allegation that the DENR and the DAR awarded him a land ownership certificate for 176 hectares of property that included the farmers' land.

The 176 hectares were reportedly spread across Barangay Tabangohay, where at least 50 farmers were allegedly displaced.

"I do not (even) own a square meter (of land) in that area. If ever I have, I am willing to donate it, free of transfer taxes," Veloso stressed.

He added that he is not qualified to apply for a certificate of land ownership because he is a landowner.

Veloso said he owned about 105 hectares of farmland in Barangay Guinsiaman in San Miguel town, which he volunteered to sell to the DAR. He has yet to receive payment from the Land Bank of the Philippines, he added.

Veloso said he has no problem with the 300 farmer-tenants on his property. "All of them agreed when I proposed that the land would be sold to DAR," he said.

Cops restrict information on kidnapping

DAVAO CITY—The Southern Mindanao police yesterday started to restrict the flow of information on the kidnapping of a scion of a prominent family and two other victims here last week.

Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, regional police director, said reporting on the details of police action could jeopardize the manhunt against the abductors and efforts to rescue the hostages.

Matillano even refused to confirm a report that the getaway vehicle used by the kidnappers were found in a remote area in Parang, Maguindanao.

But he pointed to Supt. Bartolome Baluyot of the anti-kidnapping body Task Force Sanlahi-Pentagon as the right person to ask.

Matillano said "the police were trying their best to safely recover the victims."

However, he did not say how long the rescue operations would take.

Maria Cecilia Bonifacio, whose family owns the Bonifacio Motors Corp., her secretary Fe Jayno and Norma Jayno were seized by armed men in Sasa District here on Jan. 3.

He also said the abductors have no connections with the Pentagon, as earlier reported by a ranking military official.

"I classify the group as a purely criminal group without clear ideology. This one is not surely Pentagon," he said.

Matillano said Bonifacio's abductors were the same persons who snatched Canadian Pierre Belanger on Nov. 3 from Hagonoy, Davao del Sur.

Belanger was rescued in Panabo City, Davao del Norte on Dec. 23. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Subic 'streamer war' leads to beating

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Two Olongapo City officials who removed a streamer branding Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon a "dictator of Subic" were beaten up on Saturday allegedly by supporters of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Felicito Payumo in Bataan.

Fernando Magrata, administrator of the James Gordon Memorial Hospital, said he and his brother Joey, executive assistant of Olongapo Mayor Katherine Gordon, were punched, kicked and slapped by seven men, all armed with M-14 Armalite rifles.

But Senior Insp. Rommel Velasco, Dinalupihan police chief, said the Magrata brothers suffered only "slight injuries."

Lawyer Roy Pastor, SBMA labor chief, said the attackers were village guards from Roosevelt, a Bataan village on the boundary of the freeport's Tipo Gate, where the anti-Gordon streamer was hung.

The guards have relatives working at the SBMA, it was learned.

Pastor said the attack came on the heels of a conflict that started Dec. 9 over the management of the PTT-Bloom Gas and Service Station inside the freeport.

"This was a hostile reaction triggered by dozens of anti-Payumo streamers put up inside the port. The streamers are so derogatory. Some are with invectives," he said.

Payumo could not be reached for comment on Saturday. He was in a meeting in Morong, Bataan, Pastor said.

Fernando Magrata, reached by telephone at the Dinalupihan District Hospital where he and his brother were taken, said they had just passed the gate at 11:30 a.m. when Joey decided to stop and get the streamer. They used the Tipo Road on their way to SM City in Pampanga to buy car accessories, Fernando said.

It was out of respect for Gordon that Joey took the streamer off the gate, he said.

Immediately after, Fernando said the seven men, who emerged from one of the SBMA offices along Tipo, approached them.

According to him, they were first taken to a "safehouse" near the gate. There, he said, they were subjected to an endless round of punches, kicks and slaps.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 top Cebu customs execs sacked over 'hot' rice

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Two top customs officials in Cebu were relieved from their posts yesterday pending the investigation by the Department of Finance of last month's disappearance of a vessel loaded with smuggled rice worth P18 million.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the relief of Roberto Sacramento and Santiago Maravillas as Cebu customs collector and deputy customs collector for assessment took effect yesterday.

Juan Tan, district collector of the Iloilo Port, was named acting Cebu customs district collector. Maximo Reyes, acting district collector of the Legaspi Port, was re-assigned to replace Maravillas.

Camacho said Sacramento and Maravillas have been temporarily placed on a floating status pending investigation.

He said the relief was based on the recommendation of a fact-finding committee, which is looking into the disappearance of the MV Great Faith.

This was to make sure that the investigation would proceed smoothly and to prevent any suspicion of a whitewash, he added.

MV Great Faith, owned by Sampaguita Shipping Lines, was held at the privately owned Ouano Wharf in Mandaue City for three months after Customs officials ordered the vessel seized on Sept. 12 for carrying 18,000 sacks of smuggled rice.

Sacramento issued in early December a release order in favor of the rice shipment's consignee, Searabbit Enterprises, but his decision was reversed on Dec. 12 by Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva who ordered the rice forfeited in favor of the government.

The cargo ship with its load of rice, however, left port about midnight of Dec. 24, while the lone Customs police officer assigned to guard the vessel, Julius Ceasar Villarin, was away.

In an interview over Cebu City-based radio station dyLA, Camacho said he told President Macapagal-Arroyo about the relief of Sacramento and Maravillas.

The President earlier ordered Camacho to look into the disappearance of MV Great Faith. The committee chaired by Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Hizon will pursue the investigation, he said.

Camacho assured that customs officials found to be involved in the vessel's disappearance would face sanctions, including dismissal from the service.

"The committee has already some initial findings, which was the reason why some changes have been made," said Camacho referring to the relief orders.

He said the committee had discovered that some Customs officials committed lapses, which resulted in the escape of MV Great Faith. He, however, refused to elaborate.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Visayas and Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers particularly on the Eastern section. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 18°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 11°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 15°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 18°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 19°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 16°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 19°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 22°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Davao	Partly Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/01/08/02

ROUNDUP

Plan to remove cops deferred

BAGUIO CITY—The regional police postponed to the year 2007 its plan to remove at least 20,000 policemen for failing to finish their college education. Chief Supt. George Aliño, Cordillera police director, said the regional police planned to assign policemen who did not finish college to areas that are near colleges or universities so they would have easy access to these schools. He said they have an agreement with the Department of Education to evaluate the policemen's abilities through tests.
Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Docs to give free surgery

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Thirteen doctors who belong to the Operation Rainbow Canada will provide free surgery to persons, especially children, with cleft lip and cleft palate on Feb. 3-9 at the Benguet General Hospital here. The BGH and all district hospitals in Benguet started on Jan. 5 their free screening of persons who need the operations. Patients will also receive medicines from Operation Rainbow Canada.
Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Tricycle driver killed

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—A tricycle driver was stabbed and killed in Barangay Balante here Wednesday allegedly by his passengers. Police said the body of Herminio Hulinganga, 34, bore 15 stab wounds. Investigators said two men contracted Hulinganga for P300 to be brought to a Pangasinan town. Recovered near Hulinganga's body were a bladed weapon used for the killing and a bloodied T-shirt believed owned by one of the suspects.
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

₱12M in cable destroyed

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Arson investigators are looking into sabotage as the cause of the fire that destroyed P12 million worth of cable copper wires in a warehouse of the biggest telecommunications firm here on Thursday. Firemen here and from nearby towns and Angeles City rushed to the Datelcom Corp. warehouse along MacArthur Highway in Barangay Dau here at 4 p.m. Datelcom and Angeles City Telephone System owner Anthony Dee said the fire would not disrupt telecommunications services.
Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Naga crime rate down

NAGA CITY—Supt. Eliciar Bron, Naga City police chief, reported that crimes committed in 2001 in this city went down compared to 2000. In November 2001 alone, Bron said, there were 16 crimes committed compared to 22 in the same month in 2000. Of the recorded cases, 13 have been disposed of through the filing of criminal charges in court while two cases of robbery and a case of illegal discharge of firearm are still under investigation. He said the crime efficiency in the year 2001 was 81.25 percent.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

C. Norte towns get ₱1.7M

NAGA CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development granted a P1.7-million assistance package to several towns in Camarines Norte. The package includes 10 units of houses in Daet and Basud, P700,000 for a day care center in San Vicente and loans for 30 families in Talisay. DSWD regional director Consolacion Arafiles said with the aid, the beneficiaries could now look for other projects to help them meet their maximum basic needs.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Truck falls into ravine

LUCENA CITY—A dump truck loaded with goodies and foodstuff from GMA Channel 7 fell into a shallow ravine Saturday as it traversed along the national highway in Sitio Sudle, Barangay Tanauan, Real, Quezon. A police report said the truck being driven by one Avelino Ramirez was headed to the town proper when it tried to overtake two vehicles in a curb. Due to the truck driver's miscalculation, however, the vehicle swerved and fell into a ravine. The truck destroyed a house it fell on. An occupant of the house identified as Edison Masayao reportedly suffered serious injuries while the driver and the truck helpers suffered minor cuts and bruises.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drunken son kills father

LUCENA CITY—A drunken son stabbed dead his father who tried to pacify him in Zaballero Subdivision, Barangay Gulang-Gulang Wednesday. Police identified the victim as Bonifacio Baron, 46, a resident of the barangay. Investigators said that the victim's son Bernardo, 22, was drunk and creating trouble inside the house. The victim reportedly tried to calm his son down but instead of obeying, the suspect stabbed the victim in different parts of the body, causing his immediate death.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Gov't pulls surprise, brings Misuari home

(From page A1)

for illegal entry.

Grateful to Mahathir

"The President (Macapagal-Arroyo) was grateful to Mr. Mahathir for honoring our laws," Tiglao said.

Malaysia has always intended to repatriate Misuari to the Philippines despite suggestions by the Organization of the Islamic Conference that he be given asylum in a third country, according to Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar.

"We never change our mind. That is the position we have taken from the start and we have said we will send him back. We have kept our word and our commitment to the Philippine government," he said in Kuala Lumpur.

Since November, the Philippine government has been trying to delay Misuari's return to the Philippines, fearing his detention and trial could spark further violence from his supporters.

Misuari is likely the best-known former Moro rebel figure in the Philippines. Analysts fear that Muslims could grow angry at his trial at the hands of a predominantly Christian government.

But Malaysia, a moderate Muslim country, also grew uneasy holding Misuari. Malaysia traditionally supported Misuari, but became closer to the Philippine government on security issues in recent years.

"We are happy we have kept our commitment and it is no longer our responsibility," Syed Hamid said, adding that Misuari should be treated with dignity and respect.

Misuari, former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), and 600 of his supporters had been charged with rebellion after they attacked military outposts in Jolo, Sulu, in an attempt to stop the holding of the ARMM elections last November.

Misuari and a certain Abu Harris Oman were handed over to Dureza and Managuelod at around 6:30 a.m. at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base in Subang Jaya.

Misuari's six other followers—Bakil Annay Harun, Johan Sawadjaan San Sanzibar, Akil Abduraham Abdur, Uddin Esguera Ishmael, Gamar Bin Abd. Razak and Omar Bin Abdullah—were turned over to Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

Sta. Rosa detention center

From Malaysia, Misuari and Oman were flown aboard an Air Force C-130 plane to the Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas. They were later transported by helicopter to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, where they would be temporarily detained.

His six followers, on the other hand, were flown directly to Villamor Air Base in Pasay City and later brought to the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology detention facility in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza said Misuari's deportation was kept under wraps for security reasons.

Mendoza admitted that the decision to deport Misuari earlier than the scheduled Jan. 15 came from the Malaysian authorities.

Right time

"They felt that this was the right time," Mendoza told reporters in an interview following a joint conference with Dureza, Managuelod, Gualberto and Interior Secretary Joey Lina at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame.

The arrangements for Misuari's deportation were finalized even before the Christmas holidays when Indonesian and Malaysian foreign ministers met with Philippine authorities in Manila, according to Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had laid out the deportation plan on Saturday, but the details were kept under wraps for Misuari's own safety, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Nearest detention

Asked why Misuari and Oman were being detained in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa instead of Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, Mendoza said: "This is the nearest detention facility."

Mendoza said Misuari's detention at the camp would be temporary. Last year a house was built in Fort. Sto. Domingo to serve as a holding area for the indicted President Joseph Estrada. The deposed President was later transferred to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

It's up to the Department of Justice to determine where Misuari and his six aides are to be transferred, according to Mendoza.

Interior Secretary Lina said the justice department would file a motion for a change in the venue for the trial of Misuari and his supporters, who were charged with rebellion before a municipal trial court in Jolo, Sulu.

"There were concerns with the way the trial could proceed. Witnesses could be subject to pressures," Lina said, adding that the new venue for the trial would be held "preferably near where he's detained."

Mendoza said there was no need to beef up security personnel inside Fort Sto. Domingo as this was well fortified because it's a training camp.

"We don't see any bloody encounter there," he said when asked if Misuari renegade supporters would launch an attack on the camp to rescue their leader.

Visitors

While detained in Fort Sto. Domingo, Misuari can receive visitors six times a week from dawn to dusk. In cases of emergency, he is allowed to receive visitors at night, according to Lina.

His immediate family, including his parents, spouses and children, as well as his personal doctor and nurse can visit him.

"Proper security has been arranged in the area," Lina said.

Fair trial

Misuari's lawyer, Elly Pamatong, maintained his client was innocent and demanded a fair trial.

"I expect nothing less than a fair trial. The whole world will be watching this," Pamatong said. "My client is not guilty of rebellion."

Misuari faces up to 20 years in prison if found guilty.

Tiglao said, "Mr. Misuari will have the opportunity to answer the rebellion charges against him in our courts."

"This administration is firmly committed to uphold the rule of law in our land. Nobody is above the law," he said.

After Misuari's arrest, his loyalists refused military orders to leave a government complex in Zamboanga City, triggering fighting that killed at least 25 rebels, two soldiers and a civilian.

The rebels seized at least 118 hostages but freed them later in exchange for safe passage to another rebel camp.

Police and soldiers have since periodically clashed with Misuari's supporters in remote areas in Mindanao.

Misuari became governor under a 1996 peace agreement to end decades of civil war between his separatist Moro National Liberation Front and the government. He was ousted as chair of the MNLF last year. *With reports from Norman Bordadora, the PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP and AP*

So Misuari's home, what next?

NORALYN MUSTAFA,
JULIE S. ALIPALA AND
EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ,
PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE PROSECUTORS' Office in Jolo, Sulu, yesterday said it was ready for the trial of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari, who has been charged with rebellion.

But most residents in Jolo do not want to have the ousted leader of the Moro National Liberation Front brought to Jolo, much less have his trial conducted in his home-province.

Jolo Mayor Suod Tan said Misuari still enjoyed the support of "thousands of followers" in Mindanao, who may rescue their fallen leader.

"It will be a problem if the trial is held here. If I could have my way, I would object to this vehemently. Instead I suggest that he be brought to a third country so that he won't have contact with his followers," Tan said.

Tan said the government would face a bigger security problem if Misuari were brought to Sulu where he could contact his followers.

"We cannot allow this. Not in Sulu. It's too dangerous," he added.

Even Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri expressed concern over the conduct of Misuari's trial in the province.

"If the decision of the higher-ups is to hold the hearing here, then we cannot object," Jikiri said.

But the governor said the best venue would be in Manila.

Jikiri, who served as chief of staff of the Bangsamoro Army before his relationship with Misuari soured, admitted that Misuari was still a security threat although no longer enjoyed as much support as he did before he was arrested.

Even Sultan Ismael Kiram of Sulu and North Borneo said Mindanaoans, particularly those residing in the southern part of Zamboanga, were not ready to receive Misuari.

"It's better for the national government to hold Misuari in Manila or in any part of Luzon," Kiram told reporters in Zamboanga City.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) expressed surprise over the government's insistence of bringing Misuari back to the country.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said it would have been better if the Macapagal administration left Misuari elsewhere.

"Definitely, it would create a tension. He still has a considerable number of followers who are capable of sowing violence," Kabalu said.

He cited the recent skirmishes in Maguindanao between the military and Misuari's followers.

On the government's determination to prosecute Misuari, Kabalu expressed the belief that the renegade Moro rebel would eventually be acquitted.

"Senator (Gregorio) Honasan had rebellion charges. What happened to that? It was as serious as Misuari's," he said. *With reports from Martin Marfil and Rocky Nazareno in Manila, and Anthony S. Allada and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Media kept in dark . . .

(From page A1)

get near the plane because of the dust from the four helicopters that surrounded it," Lorenzo said.

Supt. Arsenio Pinacate, public information officer of the Police Regional Office 4, said men of the command had been placed on red alert since Sunday, especially those assigned to secure a detention center in Barangay Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

SPO1 Juanito Alojado, Sta. Rosa police desk officer, said additional officers were assigned to Fort Sto. Domingo in Sa. Rosa. Misuari is detained in the camp.

More than 1,000 personnel from the Special Action of the Police Regional Office 4 and the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command are guarding the camp where deposed President Joseph Estrada was once detained, according to Supt. Antonio Landicho.

Residents living near the fort were wary that Misuari's followers might attack it.

Cory Arguelles, a Sto. Domingo resident, said they feared that Muslim extremists might invade their village.

Other residents said it was better during Estrada's detention because celebrities came to their village.

Puerto Princesa

The group that fetched Misuari from Malaysia was believed to have used Puerto Princesa City as a jump-off point for Kota Kinabalu.

The group that included Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, reportedly left Puerto Princesa at 3:30 a.m.

Although Western Command officials denied that Gualberto and some officials of the Department of Justice and the Department of Interior and Local Government were in Puerto Princesa, sources confirmed that a Fokker plane left the Antonio Bautista Airbase at that time.

Gualberto's group was allegedly on board the Fokker plane for a trip to Kota Kinabalu.

Before leaving for Malaysia, Gualberto's group checked in at a local hotel on Jan. 6.

Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza, WesCom Commander, said he had no knowledge about the CIDG operation and suggested the matter be verified with their operations department.

Confidential mission

Maj. Larry Tianchon, operations department deputy head, said the Fokker plane was on a confidential mission.

Tianchon did not elaborate on who the passengers of the plane were.

Staff members of the local hotel where Gualberto's group was billeted, said the CIDG chief was with Supt. Mike Garaiz, operations officer of the Palawan Police Provincial Office.

Asked to comment on the operations of Gualberto's group, Gov. Joel Reyes said he only learned about it from the media.

To verify the information, RGMA-Palawan, a local radio station, called its sister station dzBB in Manila.

It relayed that National Security Adviser Roilo Golez had said that Gualberto would bring Misuari to Manila on board an international flight from Malaysia.

Some police officers in Puerto Princesa, who declined to be named, said Gualberto's group chose Puerto Princesa as a jump-off point because it could not be noticed.

Besides, they said, Gualberto knew the geography of Palawan well because he used to be the police provincial director of Palawan.

Pinoys needed to rehabilitate . . .

(From page A1)

unteers," but Filipinos were preferred because of their ability to communicate in English.

"They want Filipino air traffic controllers, radio controllers, approach controllers to help rehabilitate Afghanistan's airports," he said.

The "volunteers" should be ready to leave within 60 to 90 days from the issuance of the order, Yap said, so they should already be experienced in their fields and do not need further training.

"The request is immediate. The volunteers should already be experienced," Yap added.

The UN request was contained in a letter sent via the US Embassy here. This was approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo and passed on to all concerned government agencies.

"We have already issued volunteers from the ATO, by order of the President. We'll work this out with DOLE (Department of Labor and Employment) and the DFA (Department of Foreign Affairs)," he said.

Manila International Airport Authority chief Edgardo Manda said they would also be sending their share of "volunteers" to Afghanistan.

"We're more than willing to provide volunteers. This could also mean additional dollar remittances (to the country)," he said.

Wages paid

The "volunteers" will not be working for free. They will be paid.

"They would open most of the airports to commercial, military and cargo transports. There would also be volunteers from other countries," Yap said.

Much of Afghanistan's airport facilities have been destroyed by US bombing raids which began a month after the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington blamed on Osama bin Laden.

US making ultimate chemical . . .

(From page A1)

overpowering offensive odor?

The US military is taking that naughty toy one step further and has asked a group of scientists to come up with the worst smells imaginable to help the military develop an "odor bomb" so foul it could clear crowds.

Perhaps one should call it "odor warfare."

"We are going for odors that every culture has experienced and the experience is negative," said Pamela Dalton, a researcher at the Philadelphia-based Monell Chemical Senses Center.

The Pentagon asked Monell to help develop the stinky but non-lethal weapon. The center's work on putrid odors was reported in the Monday issue of Chemical & Engineering News, the weekly newsmagazine of the American Chemical Society.

About 50 Monell researchers are probing human pheromones, inquiring about food cravings or sniffing body odors. Dalton's job is to investigate what odors offend people.

"Whether people are born with preferences for odors or whether it is learned, we don't know," said Dalton.

Researchers have looked for odors that produced a negative reaction in all cultures. Among these are the odors of human waste, rotting animal flesh and garbage and burnt hair.

Dalton said they focused on biological odors, believing they were most likely to be recognized universally.

Common ingredients of the mixtures are skatole and mercaptoacetic acid.

"People really hated these odors," the Chemical & Engineering News quoted Dalton as saying.

"As they smelled the odor, their heads would jerk back, and you could see the revulsion on their faces."

The magazine said physiological monitoring showed that the odors induced shallow breathing, increased heart rate and increased stomach motility, which is an early indicator of nausea.

But Dalton cautioned that the military could be a long way from developing such an offensive weapon, and that scientists are still trying to work out some bugs.

"How do you contain these odors until you are ready to use them?" she asked. *With a report from AP*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the President
TECHNOLOGY and LIVELIHOOD RESOURCE CENTER

TLRC
The Power of Knowledge
Learn
and
Earn!
ENROLL NOW

Room 805, 8TH Flr
CityState Centre Building
709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
(Near Rizal Capitol Rotunda)
Tels: 633-5709 • 633-6728
Trunklines: 637-4108 to 12,
637-4018 to 22
Website: www.tlrc.gov.ph

Seminar fees reflect
a Silver Anniversary 30% discount.
Free lunch and coffee.
Air-conditioned rooms.
Field trips. More free after-training services.

This ad is published every other Monday in Daily Inquirer.

DATE	COURSE	FEES
HOMEBUSINESS COURSES		
JAN. 14-15	AROMA CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540 00
JAN. 14-15	JEWELRY APPRAISAL AND PAWNSHOP OPERATION	1,540 00
JAN. 14-16	FRESH FLOWER ARRANGEMENT AND FLOWER SHOP OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (with field trip)	2,310 00
JAN. 16	SETTING UP A TRAVEL AGENCY	770 00
JAN. 16-17	THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE (SWEDISH STYLE)	1,540 00
JAN. 16-18	FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICES (Waitering, Bartending and Stewarding)	1 925 00
JAN. 17-18	PRINTING PRESS BUSINESS (with field trip)	1 350 00
JAN. 17-18	WOOD FRAMING	1 540 00
JAN. 19-20	HERBAL BATH SOAP (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1 540 00
JAN. 19-20	DECORATIVE CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540 00
JAN. 19-20	ACCOUNTING AND RECORD KEEPING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES	1,540 00
JAN. 19-20	DOLLAR TRADING/FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE	1,105 00
JAN. 21-22	ORGANIZING PARTY FUNFARE AS A BUSINESS (with Balloon Decors)	2,310 00
JAN. 21-22	CORSAGE AND BOUQUET MAKING	1,540 00
JAN. 21-23	COCONUT MINI-OIL MILLING AND REFINING (with field trip) (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,732 50
JAN. 21, 23-25	STARTING A RESTAURANT BUSINESS (with field trip)	2,310 00
JAN. 22-25	SILKSCREEN PRINTING	2,310 00
JAN. 23-24	HAIR TRIMMING, PERMING, DYEING AND MAKE UP TECHNIQUES	1,540 00
JAN. 24-25	REFLEXOLOGY	1,540 00
JAN. 26-27	AROMA CANDLE MAKING (in cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540 00
JAN. 26-27	JEWELRY APPRAISAL AND PAWNSHOP OPERATION	1 540 00
JAN. 26-28	OPERATING A LAUNDRY SHOP BUSINESS (SMALL-SCALE) (with field trip)	1,732 50
JAN. 26-28	FRESH FLOWER ARRANGEMENT AND FLOWER SHOP OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT (with field trip)	2,310 00
JAN. 28	FRANCHISING A BUSINESS	770 00
JAN. 28-29	CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY (BASIC)	1,540 00
JAN. 28-29	BASIC RESERVATION AND TICKETING FOR TRAVEL AGENCIES (with field trip)	1,386 00
AGRI/AQUA COURSES		
JAN. 14-16	SWINE PRODUCTION (with field trip)	2,079 00
JAN. 17-19	LAYER PRODUCTION (Table Egg) (with field trip)	1,732 50
JAN. 19-21	TILAPIA CULTURE (with field trip)	1,732 50
JAN. 21-23	MANGO PRODUCTION (WITH IMPROVED FLOWER INDUCTION) AND POST-HARVEST HANDLING AND STORAGE TECHNOLOGY (with field trip)	1,732 50
JAN. 23-24	BREEDING AND CULTURE OF FRESHWATER AQUARIUM FISHES (with field trip)	1,386 00
JAN. 23-25	BROILER PRODUCTION (MEAT TYPE CHICKEN) (with field trip)	1,732 50
JAN. 27-28	SEMI-INTENSIVE CULTURE OF MILKFISH (Bangus) IN MARINE, BRACKISH AND FRESH WATER (with field trip)	1,386 00
FOOD COURSES		
JAN. 14-15	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540 00
JAN. 14-17	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	2,079 00
JAN. 16	FLAVORED AND FORTIFIED JUICE	770 00
JAN. 19-20	SPECIALTY CAKES AND PASTRIES	1,540 00
JAN. 21-22	SORBETES (Commercial Production) (with field trip)	1,540 00
JAN. 23-24	BASIC CAKE DECORATING	1,540 00
JAN. 24-25	CHINESE DIMSUM	2,310 00
JAN. 25-26	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540 00
JAN. 26-29	COMMERCIAL BREADMAKING AND BAKERY MANAGEMENT	2,079 00
JAN. 28-29	PROCESSING OF CHICHARON AND OTHER PORK BY-PRODUCTS	1,540 00

Classes are held from 9 am to 5:30 pm.
Schedules may change without notice.
Some courses are limited to 25 participants.
Only cash/company checks accepted.

January 2002 Issue
INQUIRER Golf Monthly

FIL-AM's BEST

Manila Southwoods, DHL-Mizuno share honors in Baguio

FVR man comes out swinging at GMA

(From page A1)

The PCA, a constant critic of the President, has accused her and her husband Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo of acts of corruption. Its secretary general Linda Olaguer-Montayre recently threatened to call out "People Power IV" against the administration.

Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for the President, yesterday countered by describing the group long identified with Ramos as "an assembly of two."

Tiglao said Enriquez and Montayre could not claim a following because they only "invite people to lunch at Club Filipino." He was referring to the historic club in Greenhills, San Juan, where the PCA holds its press conferences.

"The PCA doesn't even have a secretariat or an office," he added.

On Saturday, Ramos denied involvement in the supposed destabilization plot that was divulged by Baron Cervantes, the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers Union who was murdered on New Year's Eve.

On Sunday, YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño said, "somebody beside (the President) who has been wanting to be important" was orchestrating the alleged plot.

He also said "patricians of the Macapagal administration" were behind Cervantes' murder.

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr. (Lakas) yesterday urged the Philippine National Police to compel Cardeño to name the so-called "patricians."

He said it was unfair for the police officer to make such allegations without naming names because these were feeding perceptions that Ramos was behind a destabilization plot.

These perceptions are farthest from the truth, said Lozada, who had served as Ramos' appointments secretary and adviser on foreign affairs,

Not to worry

Enriquez said the President should not worry too much about the 2004 election because "the people will automatically hand it to her if she does her job well."

He said that because of her supposed obsession for the election, her administration was turning out to be "a government of perception."

"For example, somebody, would say something is wrong," he said. "But she would say, 'Ah, it's only a perception.' Then the problem would be managed only in the media."

Enriquez also said the President's trips to the provinces were another manifestation of her supposed agenda for 2004.

"But was she able to create jobs in Cotabato City?" he said, referring to the President's trip to the South last week.

Echoing the allegations of corruption in the Macapagal administration, Enriquez warned: "Unless the wrongdoing in her government is done away with, the rest of our society will soon agree to ask for her resignation."

He expressed support for Montayre, saying "her statements have the blessings of people who meet as PCA members."

"We agree with what she has been saying," he declared.

Enriquez also assailed the pro-Macapagal Caucus of Development NGOs (Code NGO), which has been accused of earning billions of pesos from a government bond float.

"Is it right to use your creativity like what Code NGO did to amass money?" he said of the case now being investigated by the Senate.

Enriquez's broadsides at the President came in the wake of a supposed "rift" between her and Ramos because of reports that Ramos was planning to seek another term in 2004.

Ramos had claimed that a "gray area" in the 1987 Constitution allows an ex-president to seek another term, but he has since denied that he was planning to do so in 2004.

Enriquez, who served as Ramos' budget and finance secretary, said his ex-boss had "a point" and in fact "performed better" if compared with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

But he said his preference was that Ramos not run for office again, and noted that the man himself had disavowed such an intention.

Confident

At his regular briefing for reporters, Tiglao said the Macapagal administration continued to enjoy the support of most of the non-government groups that helped make People Power II possible.

"We're still confident that the majority of civil society groups are supportive of this administration," he said.

Enriquez pointed out in his radio interview that Tiglao was making a mistake in belittling the PCA.

"The PCA thrives on the exchange of ideas. Ideas drive the PCA. Ideas unseated a president," he said, referring to Estrada's ouster which the group had claimed to have a hand in.

Tiglao said Malacañang "hopes that Enriquez will clarify his statements so these will be clear."

Asked whether Malacañang would ask Ramos to stop the PCA from hitting the government, Tiglao quoted the ex-President as saying that "he has nothing to do with Enriquez and Montayre."

"We have to respect the word of a former president," he said.

Enriquez claimed that his involvement in the PCA was not connected with his association with Ramos.

"I do not deny that I served Ramos before. I also do not deny that he may have liked my ideas and actions," Enriquez said.

'Tsismis'

Lozada said the YOU's Cardeño should make "a categorical statement in writing" regarding who were behind Cervantes' killing. Otherwise, he said, all that Cardeño said would amount only to "*tsismis* (rumors)."

He said it was apparent that Cardeño, himself suspected of being a coup plotter, had knowledge of the events leading to the New Year's Eve murder.

Lozada said the PNP, and even the Armed Forces, should subject Cardeño to extensive interrogation.

"*Mukhang may alam siya*. That should be a big lead to our authorities," he said.

Lozada also defended Ramos from speculations of involvement in political moves meant to undermine the stability of the Macapagal administration.

The congressman said Ramos was being made a scapegoat because of his exalted position in society.

He said suspecting Ramos as among the "patricians" Cardeño had cited was "a wrong connection."

"I don't think we should rely on this analysis," he added.

Lozada also said the PCA's Montayre and Enriquez were engaged in "their own fight" and should not be seen as representing Ramos.

He scoffed at Montayre's threat to call out people power against the administration, saying: "I don't think that's going to happen. I think it's a joke."

Awol

In Iloilo City, Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, PNP regional director in Western Visayas, yesterday insisted that Cardeño had been "officially Awol (absent without official leave) since Dec. 29" and would be subjected to an investigation regarding his absence when he reports for work.

If he fails to explain his absence, Cardeño will be slapped administrative sanctions, Garcia said.

Garcia was reacting to Cardeño's statement Sunday that he was not Awol and planned to return to his post soon.

Cardeño was ordered transferred to an unspecified post in the Police Regional Office in Western Visayas (PRO-6) effective Oct. 24 after he was linked to a supposed coup plots against the Macapagal administration. Another YOU leader, Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, was transferred to Zamboanga.

Garcia said PRO-6 dropped Cardeño from its roster last Nov. 24, a month after he failed to report for work, but that they received an order from national headquarters early last month moving Cardeño's date of transfer from Oct. 26 to Dec. 15.

Cardeño showed up at PRO-6 on Dec. 20, just before the Christmas holiday break. But he asked for a leave of absence so he could look for a lawyer to help him resolve his case.

At noon yesterday he was still unheard from. ***With a report from Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

Illegal hiring cases on the rise again

(From page A1)

Duque, who now runs the family-owned Lyceum Northwestern university in Dagupan City.

In mid-2001, Department of Labor and Employment records showed that 466,663 Filipinos had left the country to work abroad, compared with 459,832 in the same period in 2000. For all of last year, the number reached a record 841,628.

The government expects the total to reach 1 million for all of 2001.

Popular source

Since 1979, the Philippines has been one of the most popular sources of overseas labor in the world. "Indeed, by the early 1990s, it was—after Mexico—probably the second largest source in the world, with some 600,000 leaving annually," wrote Nigel Harris in "The New Untouchables: Immigration and the New World Worker," a 1995 publication.

"Expect an upsurge of illegal recruitment cases in the coming months as some people prey on the gullible, the already marginalized Filipinos desperate to find employment," the NBI's Lavin told the INQUIRER.

Baldoz said much the same thing as she also denounced the wicked trade. "It's sad that some of our countrymen make fortunes at the expense of their fellow Filipinos" who continue to plumb the depths of the world's labor markets in search of a better life for themselves and their families.

Contrary to popular perception, many job seekers who are duped or experience difficult times abroad were deployed by illegal recruiters, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said.

But there is more bad news. Sto. Tomas acknowledged that the labor department "cannot run after these agencies because they are not registered in the first place."

There are about 1,300 licensed recruitment firms nationwide, but many underground companies continue to send workers abroad, she said.

As the demand for Filipino manpower in the world market increased, "the proliferation of syndicates also grew to alarming proportions," noted Director Evelyn Florendo-Tablang of the labor department in a paper presented to the National Defense College of the Philippines.

"Despite incessant government advisories and frequent tales of woe of victims, workers continue to fall into the trap of illegal recruiters, either wittingly or unwittingly," Tablang wrote.

In a POEA briefing paper, Bay said "it no longer comes as a surprise to us to hear stories of victims who sell or mortgage their property or part with precious possessions in order to raise the substantial sum of money demanded by recruiters assuring them of jobs abroad."

According to Tablang, "those who are able to leave the country on false documents and thus land in their destinations as illegals become victims twice over: their employment is very insecure and their continued stay (is) in peril. They are paid very low wages and are subject to unfair labor practices. On the other hand, those who are not able to leave because of non-existent job offers are left with an empty bag after the illegal recruiter has run off with their precious money."

Non-existent jobs

In 2001, most of the illegal recruitment cases reported to the POEA involved non-existent jobs such as factory workers, apple pickers, seamen, maids and waiters in such places as South Korea, Taiwan, Australia, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates.

Of the 1,670 victims identified, 977 are male and 693 female. Most of them were recruited in the Metro Manila area and the provinces of Bulacan, Pangasinan and La Union.

Many illegal recruiters prey on jobless men and women in remote parts of the country, "some (of them) still doing door-to-door recruitment activities," Bay said.

Late last year, one such remote village in the Cordillera became part of a "sophisticated fraud operation" by a syndicate allegedly headed by one Nida Revalo.

Revalo, described by an official of the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group as "unassuming, softspoken and literate," was arrested by the CIDG in Malate based on the testimony of a former business partner.

The Cordillera CIDG said the Manila-based Revalo appeared to have cashed in on some P2.5 million in recruitment fees collected from more than 100 Cordillera folk.

Here's the Revalo group's modus operandi: One of Revalo's partners, acting out the role of a successful recruit already deployed in Macau, enticed townmates via fake overseas calls into dealing with Revalo.

"It was very well done because a voice from abroad already made the recruiter very credible to her victims," a CIDG official said. An NBI agent called the scheme "doing illegal recruitment on a handshake and basic trust."

In Mindanao, illegal recruiters are still using the southern backdoor, particularly the Zamboanga City-Sandakan, Sabah route in the deployment of workers supposedly bound for Malaysia and Brunei, according to personnel of the Bureau of Customs and the Philippine Ports Authority.

The use of the route for illegal recruitment was discovered two years ago by the POEA when 23 Filipinos, promised high-paying jobs in a construction project in Brunei, reported the case to the labor attaché in the Philippine embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan, the capital, Their suspected recruiter was a Brunei national with Filipino partners.

Most of the victims were from Nueva Ecija and other parts of Luzon. They traveled to Zamboanga City by ship and from there boarded another vessel, this time bound for Brunei via the Sandakan port.

The same route was also used in 1999 by 18 Filipino women who each paid P100,000 to P150,000 for non-existent jobs in Italy. The recruits had to contact Philippine embassy officials in Rome after they ran out of money.

Fake birth certificates

In Davao City, the POEA's regional center for Mindanao has received reports that illegal recruiters have been selling fake birth certificates supposedly to facilitate deployment of Japan-bound job applicants. The fake documents cost between P30,000 and P50,000.

"The documents make it appear the bearer is of Japanese descent. Said documents will be used by the applicant with the help of the recruiter in securing a passport and other travel papers. In most cases, the job seeker fails to leave the country for lack of (a) working visa or leaves the country as a tourist and eventually ends up as an illegal alien in Japan," Domingo said.

Also in the southern Philippines, the smuggling of illegally recruited and undocumented Filipino workers to Japan using cargo vessels docking in the Davao and Cagayan de Oro ports continues, according to Bureau of Immigration insiders.

Former BI chief Rufus Rodriguez once said the criminal activity would not have prospered "without the connivance of corrupt immigration employees and crew of ocean-going vessels."

The NBI, meanwhile, is looking into the illegal recruitment activities of Japanese syndicates posing as legitimate business groups.

According to Lavin, the illegal recruiters work this way: "The Japanese recruiters put up trading firms in Japan and their partner trading companies here in the Philippines, supposedly to engage in the import and export of various commodities. The local office then recruits girls, supposedly for employment as sales staff. Upon the invitation of the trading firm in Japan, the Filipino sales staff will then be sent to Japan for fictitious training purposes. The Japanese embassy grants them tourist visas because there was a formal invitation from the Japan-based trading firm. Both trading firms then fold up and the girls do not return here anymore. The process takes six months to one year."

Reports reaching the AIRD disclosed that at least one-third of some 200 travel agencies operating in Metro Manila have been conniving with illegal recruiters.

"Many get duped. They are made to leave the country as tourists. The travel agencies assist in the processing of travel documents. They pretend there are contact persons abroad who will meet the recruits, who will help them get jobs. When they reach their countries of destination, they'll find out no jobs were waiting for them. Then they get deported," Lavin said.

Such was the case of 39 Filipino workers who left Manila for Macau as tourists in September and October. The victims were hired to work in a casino-restaurant without the necessary POEA license.

According to Baldoz, instead of reporting to their respective employers the victims were forced to stay in an apartment to wait for job openings until they were arrested by Macau immigration men for overstaying. Charges of large-scale illegal recruitment have been filed by the POEA against the suspected illegal recruiters, identified as Zita Tangonan, Maryneil Lasam, Helen Mendoza, Alicia Zigay, Susan Balaog, Alona Lumibao, Cesar Perez and Carlito Atienza.

"Some things never change," observed Lavin. "After all these years, many of those who fall prey to illegal recruiters turn out to be willing victims."

The POEA calls them "cooperative victims." Bay lamented: "No amount of information campaign will succeed if a job seeker decides to take chances and risk his future."

US using proxies like RP in drive vs terror

(From page A1)

said last week that the Bush administration was working with every nation in the US-led coalition against terrorism and "encouraging them to take steps internally."

"Things have been happening in a variety of countries that have been very helpful," Rumsfeld told reporters. Nations will be encouraged to continue their support, "and I suspect that most countries will be cooperative in trying to be helpful."

US President George W. Bush promised in the last days of 2001 that "next year will be a war year." However, he suggested that the wars wouldn't be as bold and obvious as the Afghanistan conflict had been. Instead, they would rely heavily on diplomatic and intelligence efforts.

In the Philippines, for instance, the United States has armed government troops with hundreds of sniper rifles, mortars, grenade launders and other weapons for use against the Abu Sayyaf, a Moro extremist group linked to the al-Qaida network headed by Osama bin Laden.

A neighboring country, Indonesia, is another American surrogate that will soon take part in a US-sponsored counter-terrorist training program.

Despite Indonesia's rocky political history because of bloodshed in East Timor, the United States is helping the Muslim country with hopes of preventing Southeast Asian nations from turning into a major al-Qaida hub.

In Somalia, the United States has been conducting reconnaissance flights to search for al-Qaida terrorist camps. It also is following the work of an alliance of Ethiopian-backed faction leaders who oppose Somalia's transitional government. The group has called for an international force to destroy bases where alleged terrorists are operating.

More covert

A more covert battle looms in Yemen. That country's president met privately with Bush last November. At the time, US aides discussed a multimillion-dollar aid package for the Arab nation. Weeks later, US-trained and equipped Yemeni forces attacked a tribal group believed to be harboring al-Qaida operatives.

Engaging in proxy wars means fewer American casualties and the ability for the United States to avoid a visible link to nations with less than stellar reputations.

"You want them to do as much of the heavy lifting as you can get them to do," said Robert Pfaltzgraff, a military specialist at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts.

The host countries usually welcome US involvement in hopes of the economic and humanitarian aid that often accompany it.

The Northern Alliance in Afghanistan, abided by US efforts "not out of any love of the United States, but because it needed outside support," Pfaltzgraff said.

"The Northern Alliance needed weapons. It needed air support, and once it got the capabilities, they were able to overrun the Taliban," he said.

The same went for Pakistan, a key US ally in the Afghanistan battle. One of the few nations that formally recognized—and sometimes aided—the Taliban regime, Pakistan did an about-face after the Sept. 11 attacks.

It allowed American forces to use its airspace during the bombing campaign and is pursuing Taliban members who have fled Afghanistan.

Influencing the attitude change was more than $50 million in US aid and the lifting of economic sanctions related to Pakistan's past nuclear tests.

Franks

While the United States may have intelligence agents watching potential terrorism operations in other nations, Gen. Tommy Franks, the US war commander, said American forces had yet to put any "boots on the ground" outside Afghanistan.

"We have a great many activities going on in several countries in the region, but we're not involved in this kinetic activity, such as we've been involved in Afghanistan," he said Friday.

Rumsfeld has said repeatedly that the multinational coalition will feature an ever-changing cast of players, and each nation will be dealt with individually.

"The Bush administration can't attempt the same approach to 60 different countries, which range from ones that are sometimes hostile to some of our closest allies," said Anthony Cordesman, a military analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"What we have," said Pentagon spokesperson Victoria Clarke, are "evolving, changing coalitions, which change over time as circumstances and demands and needs require." ***AP***

Young suicide pilot had sympathy for Bin Laden

(From page A1)

to repotters Saturday that there was no evidence to suggest the crash was a terror attack.

"An investigation is under way, so we are not making any new statements," White House spokesperson Gordon Johndroe said in response to the announcement in Tampa.

Bishop had a scheduled flying lesson Saturday at National Aviation Academy, where he had taken lessons since March. His grandmother took him to the St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport for the 5 p.m. lesson.

He was supposed to check the equipment in the Cessna 172R before flying with an instructor, police said. At 15, Bishop was a year shy of being able to fly solo and two years too young to earn a pilot's license.

No violations

Investigators said it did not appear that any regulations were violated in leaving Bishop alone with the plane and its keys.

The plane was airborne for nine to 12 minutes, briefly flying through airspace over MacDill Air Force Base, said Butch Wilson, investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board. The base houses the US Central Command that is directing the war in Afghanistan.

Air Force Lt. Col. Rich McClain said the base was notified when the aircraft was about 5 km away. It entered the base's airspace, descended slightly and left one minute later without making any threatening moves, he said.

A Coast Guard helicopter caught up with Bishop after he had traveled about 30 km and the crew signaled him to land. Crewmembers said he ignored them, then crashed the plane into the building.

As a precaution, two F-15 fighter jets were scrambled from Homestead Air Reserve Base, 320 km away, but they arrived after the crash, said Capt. Kirstin Reimann at the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

Only a few people were in the building when the plane crashed, and none was injured.

Fire department officials said only the office that the plane hit and small areas of adjoining floors were damaged. Until it was pulled in early Sunday, the plane's tail had dangled from the 28th floor.

Most of the building was expected to open Monday.

Personal computer

Police detectives and FBI agents interviewed Bishop's relatives Sunday and said they would search his personal computer for evidence.

Police said Bishop had no criminal record and had no history of psychological or drug problems. He had not threatened suicide before.

Police unrolled yellow crime scene tape at the apartment complex where he lived with his mother in Palm Harbor, about 40 km west of Tampa.

Julia Bishop, the boy's mother, told a camera crew to "get out" when they attempted to film her as she opened her door for investigators.

The flight school canceled its regular operations Sunday. Employees reached at home said they had been instructed to refer questions to the school's attorney, Michael Cronin, who did not return calls for comment.

Cronin said Saturday that Bishop had been taking flying lessons at the school since March and logged about six hours of flight time. The boy often cleaned planes in exchange for flight time and knew the school's operations.

Cronin said that students were allowed to do preflight equipment checks on their own, then have an instructor verify their accuracy.

Classmates, teachers

Derek Perryman, a ninth grade classmate at East Lake High School, said Bishop often talked about planes with a friend in their journalism class.

After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he said, Bishop read a paper to the class. "It was real expressive about how he felt, how disappointed he was," Perryman told The Tampa Tribune.

Andrea Panarelli, Bishop's English teacher, said the teenager never showed any hint in her class of supporting the attacks or Bin Laden.

She said she did not specifically remember what he wrote when she assigned students to describe their feelings about the attacks.

"To me that comes as a total shock and it really saddens me to think that he would find sympathy for Bin Laden," she said.

Panarelli described Bishop as a quiet, average teenager and an A and B student who got along with classmates.

Another classmate, Ross Stewart, 15, described Bishop as a "teacher's pet."

"I knew he was an honor student. He got straight As," Stewart said. "He seemed to like his classes. He liked school. He was a happy kid. He was never really down about anything. He smiled a lot."

Bishop's algebra teacher described him as a bright, disciplined student who was well liked by his classmates.

"I'm floored. Totally floored," said Rayette Bouldrick. "He always had a smile. He was always pleasant and respectful."

Neighbors said Bishop, who had moved from the Boston area a year ago, kept to himself.

"He rode my bus to school. He sat in the front row. He always had sunglasses on for some reason," said David Ontiveros, 14. "He never talked to anybody." ***AP***

'Invite me to . . .

(From page A1)

daughter received free round-trip tickets to New York, courtesy of Northwest Airlines, with the help of the local Children's Heart Foundation.

Just last Friday, Eden was despondent. Their applications for US visas were rudely rejected last Dec. 27, and she was worried sick for Jerden, a heart patient, who was to have special surgery at the Montefiore Medical Center in New York under the auspices of the US-based Gift of Life Foundation.

But yesterday Eden, although weary from the long day, was all smiles.

Eden said Patt greeted her warmly and was "very gracious and accommodating."

She said he asked about Jerden, and expressed hope that all would go well with the surgery that had been rescheduled from today to Jan. 22.

The Sampangs were given single-entry visas with an expiry date of July 6, 2002.

Jennifer

Eden also met Jennifer Montojo, mother of Dajed, the first beneficiary of the Gift of Life District 7490, for the first time yesterday in the latter's home in Quezon City.

The two women embraced each other, Eden recalling the times that she tearfully told Jennifer of her grief and worries over the phone.

Jennifer had tried to keep up Eden's hopes that things could still work out for Jerden even with the initial rejection of their visa applications.

It was Bo Eric Sandberg, founder of BOES.org, the Sweden-based website devoted to children's rights, who told the INQUIRER about what had happened to the Sampangs. Jennifer, who is serving as volunteer for BOES.org, provided the details that went into the INQUIRER report on Jan. 5.

Jennifer yesterday advised Eden on what to do and expect in the United States, before, during and after Jerden's surgery.

She recounted her own happy experience with the family of Andrew Topp, chair of the Gift of Life Foundation, and at the Montefiore hospital where, she said, the doctors and nurses were very helpful to Dajed.

The Sampangs will be staying with a Filipino host family in New Jersey.

Eden, whose husband Jerry died a month before his scheduled charity heart operation here, said her worst fear had been that she would lose Jerden in similar circumstances.

"Free heart surgery in one of the best hospitals in New York is the best gift that my daughter can receive to enjoy a full life," she said.

Last Friday, she thought Jerden would never get this chance.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Shark, ICTSI play today

By Dennis U. Eroa

STANDINGS	W	L
ICTSI	8	3
Shark	7	4
Blu	7	5
Welcoat	7	5
Kutitap	6	6
Ana Freezers	4	7
Ateneo	4	7
Montaña	3	9

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
3:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs Shark Energy
5:30 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Kutitap

PACESETTER ICTSI-La Salle and titleholder Shark Energy Drink shoot for crucial wins today as they attempt to solidify their bid for automatic semifinal slots in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

With four playing dates remaining before the end of the eliminations, victories by the Green Archers (8-3) and the Energy Drink Kings (7-4) over their respective rivals will put added pressure to closest pursuers Blu Detergent and Welcoat Paints, which are sporting identical 7-4 records.

ICTSI's latest victim was Blu, which failed to unnerve the Archers with its physical plays on Saturday. The Archers battle dangerous Kutitap Sparklers at 5:30 p.m.

Shark is fresh from a long holiday break but remains the solid pick against the slotman-less Ana quintet at 3:30 p.m.

Shark will finish its campaign against Ateneo-Pioneer and Montaña Jewels, respectively. Coach Leo Austria, a known workaholic and assistant mentors Dayong Mendoza and Jun Galabin, made sure that the Energy Drink Kings are in tip-top shape with rigid workouts starting on Jan. 2.

Koy Banal's Sparklers hold the disctinction of beating Shark twice this conference. They stunnned the Paintmasters, 73-72, on Saturday for a 6-6 record.

Real score

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IS Ron Jacobs still the coach of the Philippine Basketball Team bound for the Busan Asian Games in September?

If you ask Commissioner Jun Bernardino of the Philippine Basketball Association, the answer would be yes.

That must be the moral thing to do.

In the first place, he chose Jacobs amid a sea of objections. In the second place, Jacobs has not resigned.

I went with Jun. I voted for Ron, too.

But I'm now having second thoughts after Ron was felled by a stroke last Dec. 23.

The language of truth is unadorned and always simple, said Ammianus Marcellinus.

Thus, a stroke is a stroke is a stroke. With a job that requires full attention such as coaching, a stroke becomes an automatic immovable obstruction to it. In the case at hand, there's no such thing as a mild stroke—even granting Ron had suffered a mild stroke as some people are wont to say. I will not dispute that. I'm not a doctor.

But I have doctors for friends at St. Luke's where Ron is presently confined. Some are my own doctors; they had me confined last May, remember? They're privy to what's happening to Ron. They keep me posted about the real score on Ron. I talked to several of them Saturday evening.

"He's still intubated (a tube remains inserted in his larynx)," said one. "Which means he's not out of the woods yet."

"He has no response, except when you inflict pain, like pinching him, painful stimulation," said another. "There's not even an eye opening yet."

"On a 1-to-15 of the Glasgow coma scale, he's at 7," said yet another. "That's not a good sign. That's still comatose."

Another doctor, who is an avid basketball fan, said, "I'm praying hard the downhill trend does not continue."

One from accounting said Ron's hospital bills have breached the half-a-million-peso mark in 16 days of confinement. Doctor's fees not included.

To summarize, all of them said Ron Jacobs could not coach anymore—even if he recovered from the stroke.

A pity, indeed, for Ron Jacobs is just about one of America's few, real gifts to the Philippine landscape.

Only a miracle can save the situation. Only God can author that miracle.

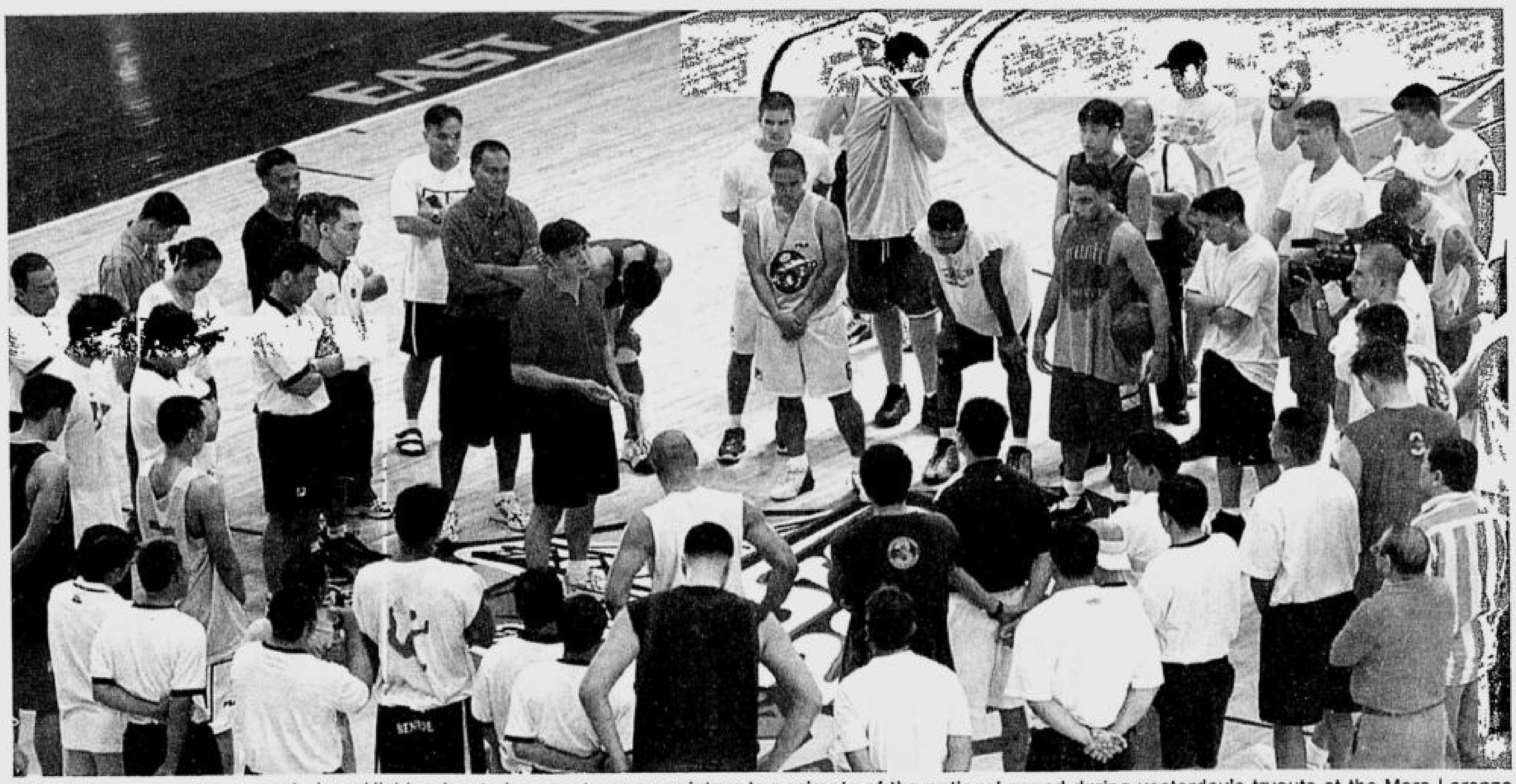
Winless Kournikova at it again, wins first

SYDNEY— Anna Kournikova, without a singles title in over five years on the WTA Tour, has no interest in dropping down to lower-rung tournaments to get the monkey off her back.

The 20-year-old glamour Russian, whose image far exceeds her on-court exploits, has come up short in her three final appearances in her heads-turning tennis career, but dismisses suggestions she should try easier tournaments.

Kournikova, who only returned to the circuit in October after suffering a stress fracture in her left foot in late February, kicked off another quest for an elusive singles title at the Sydney International Monday.

She wasted little time in enervating conditions on centre court in disposing of Spaniard Angeles Montolio, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the second round where she will bump into the imposing Serena Williams late Tuesday. *AFP*



ASIAN Games assistant coach Jong Uichico (center) presents some pointers to aspirants of the national squad during yesterday's tryouts at the Moro Lorenzo Sport Center inside the Ateneo campus.
ROMY HOMILLADA

HOLIDAY HANGOVER

Sluggish aspirants report to Uichico

By June Navarro

SAN Miguel Beer mentor Jong Uichico yesterday said the 17 PBA cagers earlier named by the ailing 59-year-old coach Ron Jacobs as Asian Games chief aspirants were already assured of slots in the national training pool.

"The players are trying to get back in shape. It's understandable, they just got back from the Holidays so we can't give a first-day judgment on the performance of the players," Uichico told the INQUIRER.

Uichico said the 17 guaranteed players might balloon to as many as 30 depending on the performance of 20 other aspirants hoping to be included into the two training squads.

The two training teams, with at least 12 players on each side, will compete in the first conference of the 2002 PBA season slated Feb. 10. The PBA has given Uichico until Jan. 28 to come up with the list.

Those named by Jacobs' to the pool were Ali Peek and Kenneth Duremdes of Alaska, Eric Menk of Barangay Ginebra, Danny Ildefonso and Danny Seigle of San Miguel, Sta. Lucia's Marlou Aquino and Dennis Espino, Pop Cola's Edward Juinio and Rudy Hatfield;

Chris Jackson of Shell, Red Bull's Mick Pennisi and Davonn Harp, Jeffrey Cariaso of Federal Express, Don Camaso and Asi Taulava of Talk N Text and Noy Castillo and Andy Seigle of Purefoods.

Uichico called the shots yesterday at the start of the second phase of the tryouts for the Asian Games national team with Eric Altamirano of Purefoods and Ginebra's Allan Caidic helping him out.

"Apart from it, nothing new happened. The outstanding guys played the way they're expected to play while the amateurs competed at-par with the veterans," he said.

He said a prognosis of the performance of the 37-man training team would come up in the next few days as soon as the players recover their bearings.

"We already know the strengths and weaknesses of each player so it's up to them if they play with consistency," said Uichico.

He said the plans for the Asiad weren't revealed to the coaching staff before Jacobs suffered a stroke.

"So I'm just looking over the tryouts in the same manner on how I conduct tryouts in the past," said Uichico, the only assistant coach officially appointed by Jacobs.

Ormoc, Isabel host cagefest

By Roy Luarca

ORMOC City and the municipality of Isabel will jointly host the 56th National Students Basketball Championships from Feb. 24-March 2.

Dr. Lucrecio Calo, the Basketball Association of the Philippines Region VIII director, said Ormoc Mayor Carmelo Locsin and Isabel Mayor Roberto Fuentes Jr. have bared their readiness to host the country's most prestigious tournament for in-school players.

Regional qualifiers will challenge defending champions St. Francis of Assisi and San Beda College in the tournament also known as the National Inter-Collegiate and Inter-Secondary Basketball Champions.

St. Francis of coach Gabby Velasco topped the inter-collegiate in San Pablo City, while San Beda of coach Ato Badolato ruled the inter-secondary in Naga City.

Helping Calo in organizing the tournament are Julie Garcia, Gilmore Anfone, Emil Tingzon and Butch Maniago.

BAP secretary general Graham Lim said Leyte Gov. Remedios Petilla has also expressed his acceptance of the tournament being supported by the National Basketball League under president Christian Tan and commissioner Fritz Gaston.

NBL members Cho-Pat, FedEx, Spring Cooking Oil and Healthy Options have also committed to help the annual tournament.

This early, the working committee headed by Calo, is coordinating with local government units and private entities to ensure the smooth holding of the tournament, which has been the spawning ground of past and present basketball superstars.

Salud, Estrellado derby favorites

BIG-TIME cockers and highrollers will see action in today's staging of Mandaluyong Coliseum's 3rd International 9-Cock Derby beginning at 4 p.m. Some 75 fights have been lined up to be sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Shampoo.

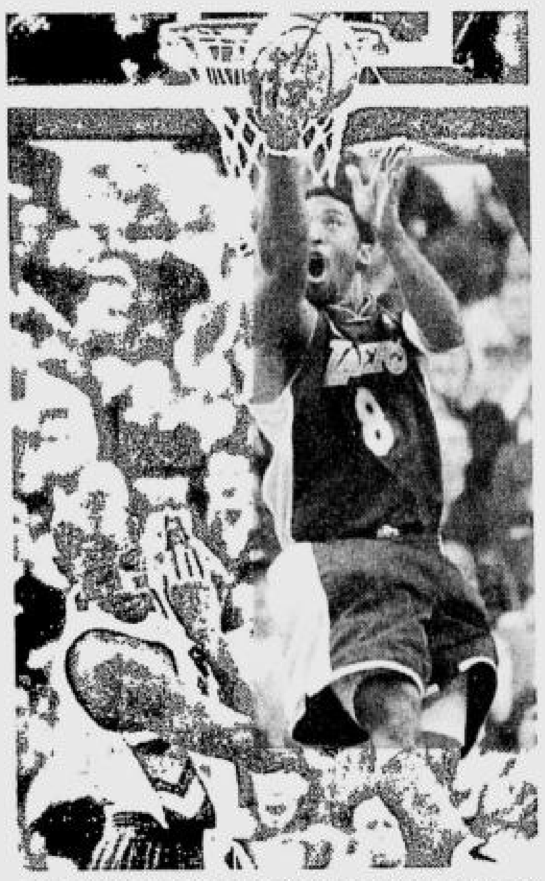
Lawyer Rudy Salud and Pol Estrellado, recent champions in the Cavite Internatinoal 7-Cock Derby, are among the early favorites along with Bobby Jones of Texas, Paul Sparks of Oklahoma and buddy Mann of Alabama:

The annual event, being hosted by OPMI president Vic Yu, produced two international champions so far: former ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Bee Balbina, 9 points) in 1999 and American Chuck Berry and Ram Lopez in 2000 (Altuz Duc, 7.5 points).

But the biggest threat will come from cockfighting heavyweights like Henry Tan, Cong. James Chiongbian of Mindanao, Kenny Chua of Ilo-ilo, Albert Yam, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, 1st Ucap 7-Cock champion Butch Macasaet, Otic Geroso, Lancey dela Torre, Ed Guanzon, Choy Ampil, Mayors Juancho Aguirre, Bob Cuenca and Baby Chua.

Also expected to provide fireworks are the entries of Zamboanga breeders Boy Primallion, Mayor Manny Dalipe and Jun Pe.

The semis and final rounds are slated on Thursday and Saturday, respectively. For inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005, and 535-2341.



LOS ANGELES Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (8) goes for a reverse slam over Toronto Raptors' Keon Clark during their NBA game in Toronto on Sunday. The Lakers won, 109-89.

Bryant outscores Carter as Lakers beat Raptors, 109-89

TORONTO —Kobe Bryant outscored Vince Carter 31-24 as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Toronto Raptors 109-89 Sunday.

Shaquille O'Neal, playing his second game since coming off the injured list, added 24 points and six rebounds in 38 minutes for the Lakers, who have won four straight games.

Bryant, guarded by Carter and Tracy Murray, scored 14 points in the third quarter, including 10 straight as Los Angeles took a 12-point lead into the fourth.

Carter had eight turnovers, and played just three minutes of the fourth period after picking up his fifth foul in the third.

SuperSonics 89, Grizzlies 77

In Memphis, Tennessee, Gary Payton had 24 points and 11 assists to lead Seattle past Memphis.

Payton was 10-of-19 from the field and controlled the game when the Grizzlies tried to put together a fourth-quarter comeback. It was Seattle's seventh win in its last eight games.

Rashard Lewis added 19 for Seattle, while Brent Barry had 16 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Jason Williams led Memphis with 19 points and 11 assists.

Heat 92, Warriors 84

In Miami, Eddie Jones scored 22 points and Alonzo Mourning added 21 as Miami held off a late rally to beat Golden State.

Despite winning its third consecutive game for the first time this season, Miami remained the only team not to score at least 100 points. The Heat, who had 57 points at halftime, extended their NBA record for consecutive games scoring under 100 points to 31.

Antawn Jamison scored 31 points for Golden State, which lost its fifth straight game. The Warriors have dropped 12 of their last 13 road games.

Kings 115, Bucks 101

In Sacramento, California, Chris Webber had 28 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his 15th career triple-double as Sacramento beat Milwaukee to extend their winning streak to seven games.

The Kings have won 12 in succession at Arco Arena to improve their NBA-best home record to 19-1 this season. The Bucks have lost four consecutive games.

Peja Stojakovic added 29 points for the Kings, hitting seven 3-pointers as the teams combined to make an arena-record 25 shots from 3-point range. *AP*

50-point plateau

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

GOING into yesterday's games, only three men have reached the 50-point plateau this season.

They are Atlanta's Shareef Abdur-Rahim, San Antonio's Tim Duncan and yes, Washington's 38-year-old MichaeL Jordan.

Abdur-Rahim, a 6-9 forward whom the Hawks acquired from the Memphis Grizzlies in a trade last July, was the first to hit 50 in the current NBA wars when he scored that many in the Hawks' 106-99 home victory over the Detroits Pistons on Nov. 23. The 2000 Sydney Olympics vet shot 21-for-30 from the field and was a perfect 8-for-8 from the foul line. The 25-year-old Abdur-Rahim was the first Hawks player to score 50 points since Dominique Wilkins had 52 against New York on Dec.7, 1991.

Duncan registered a career-high 53 markers—the most in the NBA this campaign—against Dallas on Dec. 26 but his efforts went for naught as the Spurs dropped a 126-123 overtime decision to the visiting Mavericks. The 7-foot power forward was 19-for-28 from the field and made all his 15 freethrow attempts to break his personal previous best of 46 points. Duncan was voted the NBA Western Conference Player of the Month for December while leading the Spurs to an 11-3 record, including an NBA season-high 10-game winning streak to start the month. (Dallas subsequently duplicated San Antonio's feat with a 10-game win skein of its own that was halted in an overtime loss at New York on Jan. 3).

Icon Jordan became the oldest NBA player ever to score 50 when he knocked in an MCI Center-record 51 points in a 107-90 home rout of the Charlotte Hornets on Dec. 29. It was MJ's 30th regular-season 50-point performance (38th overall to include the playoffs) in his prolific NBA tenure but the first with the improving Wizards. It also marked the first time he had reached the 50-point plateau since getting 55 for the Chicago Bulls in a playoff game against—ironically—Washington in April 1997.

Jordan's 51 points against the Hornets, which are five short of the Wizard's franchise record of 56 set by Earl "The Pearl" Monroe on Feb. 13, 1968 against the LA Lakers when the club was still known as the Baltimore Bullets, established franchise records for the first quarter-24- and in a half-34 (first half).

For the game, the 6-6 swingman out of the University of North Carolina shot 21-for-38 from the field and 9-for-10 from the charity stripes.

Jordan became the fourth player in NBA regular-season history to collect 30,000 points in his career in the Wizards' 89-83 home win against former employer Chicago on Jan. 4 (he only needed 15 for the milestone but got 29). After a slow start, Jordan now ranks eighth in the NBA in scoring with a 2.4-poit clip. He trails only Philadelphia's Allen Iverson (28.3 ppg), Boston's Paul Pierce (27.0), Orlando's Tracy McGrady (26.0), the LA Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal (25.9), Toronto's Vince Carter (25.8), the Lakers' Kobe Bryant (25.7) and Duncan (25.3).

The 50-point mark was reached nine times in the NBA last season.

La Salle defeats Adamson

DE LA Salle dumped Adamson, 3-0, to remain unbeaten in six games at the resumption of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines men's tennis tournament on Sunday at the Valle Verde Country Club outdoor courts.

The Green Netters, mentored by Roland Kraut and Taddy Cruz, banked on Pop Sabandon's 6-4, 7-5 win over Dino Marasigan in the first singles, Andre Cruz and Nico Faller's 6-4, 6-2 conquest of Randy Baylon and Ariel Tio in the doubles, and Pop Sabandon's 6-1, 6-1 win over Bryan Esteban in the second singles.

University of Santo Tomas clobbered University of the Philippines, 3-0, and Ateneo blasted University of the East, 3-0, in other results.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - Oklahoma vs Connecticut at 8 a.m., Providence vs Texas at 5 p.m., Gonzaga vs New Mexico at midnight on ESPN

POOL: Rack 'Em Up - Mosconi Cup Finals at 7 p.m. on ESPN

GOLF: APGA Opportunity Tour 2001 Highlights at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Augusta Masters 2001, Day Two at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - Minnesota Vikings vs Baltimore Ravens at 10 a.m. (r – 8:30 p.m.) on ESPN

BOWLING: USA vs Europe Tenpin Bowling 2001 at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

ICE SKATING: ISU Figure Skating Cup of Russia 2001, Highlights #2 at 2 p.m. and 12 midnight on Star Sports

SOCCER: English Premier Football League - Chelsea vs Southampton at 7 a.m. and 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Antolin Fernando shot a three-under-par 69 to claim the Marlboro Subic Open golf title with a record 13-shot lead at the Binictican Valley golf course in Subic Naval Base, Zambales. Also today in 1990, Tonito Payumo beat Arius Alcaraz, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4, to capture the boys' 18-and-under crown of the Salvador Andrada Cup age group tennis championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

2 aces at Aguinaldo

JUN Iñigo scored his 4th hole-in-one in 53 years of playing golf on Jan. 6 using a Presage 4-iron and a Tour Special at the 170-yard 15th of Aguinaldo. On Jan. 2, 15-year-old Roberto "Tatts" del Carmen aced Aguinaldo's 170-yard 16th with a Mizuno Faldo 4-iron and a Toppoint.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Sports Yearbook out Jan. 11

PHILIPPINE Sports Yearbook 2001, a collector's magazine produced by members of the Sports Press Photographers Association of the Philippines chronicling various sporting events in color and black and white photographs, will be distributed on Jan. 11 during the Philippine Sportswriters Association Awards Night at Holiday Inn Manila. An exhibit of Agfa HDC Film photo contest will also be on display in cooperation with PSA and Holiday Inn.

GLORIA SPECIAL GUEST

All set for PSA Awards Friday

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association is set to present the country's most prestigious awards in sports to sports heroes, personalities and supporters in 2001 during its traditional PSA Annual Awards Friday at the Coral Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Manila.

World billiards champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and Fil-American golfer Dorothy Joy Delasin head a stellar cast of Philippine and international champions who will receive the awards from the sportswriting fraternity in formal rites to be attended by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, officials of the Philippine Olympic Committee and Philippine Sports Commission and presidents of the national sports associations.

Photokina Marketing is sponsoring the Awards Night with support from the PSC, Philippine Airlines, Hermie Esguerra and AMF Puyat.

PSA president Lito A. Tacujan said awardees may coordinate with their NSAs or the Philippine Olympic Committee on their invitation cards which have been released Sunday.

NSA presidents awardees who have not received their invitations from their organization may inquire from the POC.

Viva-Vintage is producing the show which has noted broadcasters Noli Eala and Chiqui Roa as co-hosts.

Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. with the awards rites to follow immediately.

The complete list of awardees:

Top Athletes of the Year: Efren "Bata" Reyes (billiards), Dorothy Delasin (professional golf)

Major Awards: Eduardo Buenavista (athletics), Danny Ildefonso (professional basketball), Ren-Ren Ritualo (amateur basketball), Manny Pacquiao (professional boxing), Liza del Rosario (bowling), Frankie Miñoza (professional golf), Pat Dilema (jockey of the year), Wind Blown (horse of the year).

Citations: Purity Joy Marino (archery), Ernie Cadelario, Fidel Gallenero, Dandy Gallenero, John Lozada, Elma Muros, Cristabel Martes, Roy Vence (athletics); RP Team (basketball), Lee Van Corteza, Antonio Lining, Warren Kiamco (billiards); Leonardo Rey, RP doubles Team of Arianne Cerdena and Liza del Rosario, RP Trios of Chester King, Leonardo Roy, CJ Suarez, RP team five of Chester King, Christian Suarez, Engelbert Rivera, Benito Dytoc and CJ Suarez (bowling), Jojo Silverio (car racing), Wally Mendoza (fencing);

Esmeralda Tayag (girls softball), Juvic Pagunsan (amateur golf), John Baylon (judo), Jose Ma. Pabillore, Gretchen Malalad (karatedo), Pepon Marave (karting), Arnold Balais (Asean paragames), Jasmin Luis (shooting), Veronica Domingo, Ma. Nelia Sy-Ycasas (taekwondo), Mark Rosales, Willy Wang, Jerome Calica, Marques Sanguia (wushu), Glenn Aguilar, Kenneth San Andres (motorsports), and Erlina Pecante, Antonio Taguibao (powerlifting).

Special Citations: Philippine Sports Commission, Pilipinas Shell, Petron Corporation, Caltex Philippines, Holiday Inn, Photokina Marketing, Agfa, and Coca-Cola.

Posthumous Awards: Alfie Almario (PBA player), Nereo Andolong (PCSO chairman/POC president), Armando Besa (boxing promoter), Tito Eduque (PBA coach), Fely Fajardo (PBA coach), Chris Monfort (PFF secretary general), Larry Mumar (PBA player), Inocencia Solis (Asian sprint queen), Romy Kintanar (sports broadcaster/journalist).

Plaque of Recognition: Ambassador Alejandro "Andy" del Rosario, North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol.

Garcia captures Mercedes title

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Sergio Garcia made birdie on the first playoff hole Sunday to beat PGA champion David Toms in the Mercedes Championships.

Garcia, who wants to win the money list on the PGA Tour and the European tour, holed a 10-foot (three-meter) birdie putt on the 18th hole in regulation to close with a 9-under 64 and force a playoff with Toms, who missed a birdie putt from about the same distance.

They finished at 18-under 274.

Returning to the 18th for the playoff, Toms hit a sand wedge from mangled rough to about 30 feet (nine meters) and two-putted for par.

Garcia pitched to about 10 feet (three-meter) past the hole - in almost the same spot from where Toms had his birdie attempt to win in regulation. The Spaniard dropped his putter and raised his arms as the ball disappeared into hole.

Tournament officials drove a Mercedes toward the 18th green to give to Garcia. More valuable is the $ 720,000 winner's check - a good start for a 21-year-old player who's shooting for a monster year.

No one has ever won the money titles on both sides of the Atlantic in the same year. Tiger Woods had enough money to do that in 1999 and 2000, but he never played enough European tour events to be a member.

Garcia plans to play the minimum 15 in the United States and 11 in Europe. He already has a headstart on Woods, who does not plan to return to the PGA Tour until Pebble Beach.

"Amazing," Garcia said.

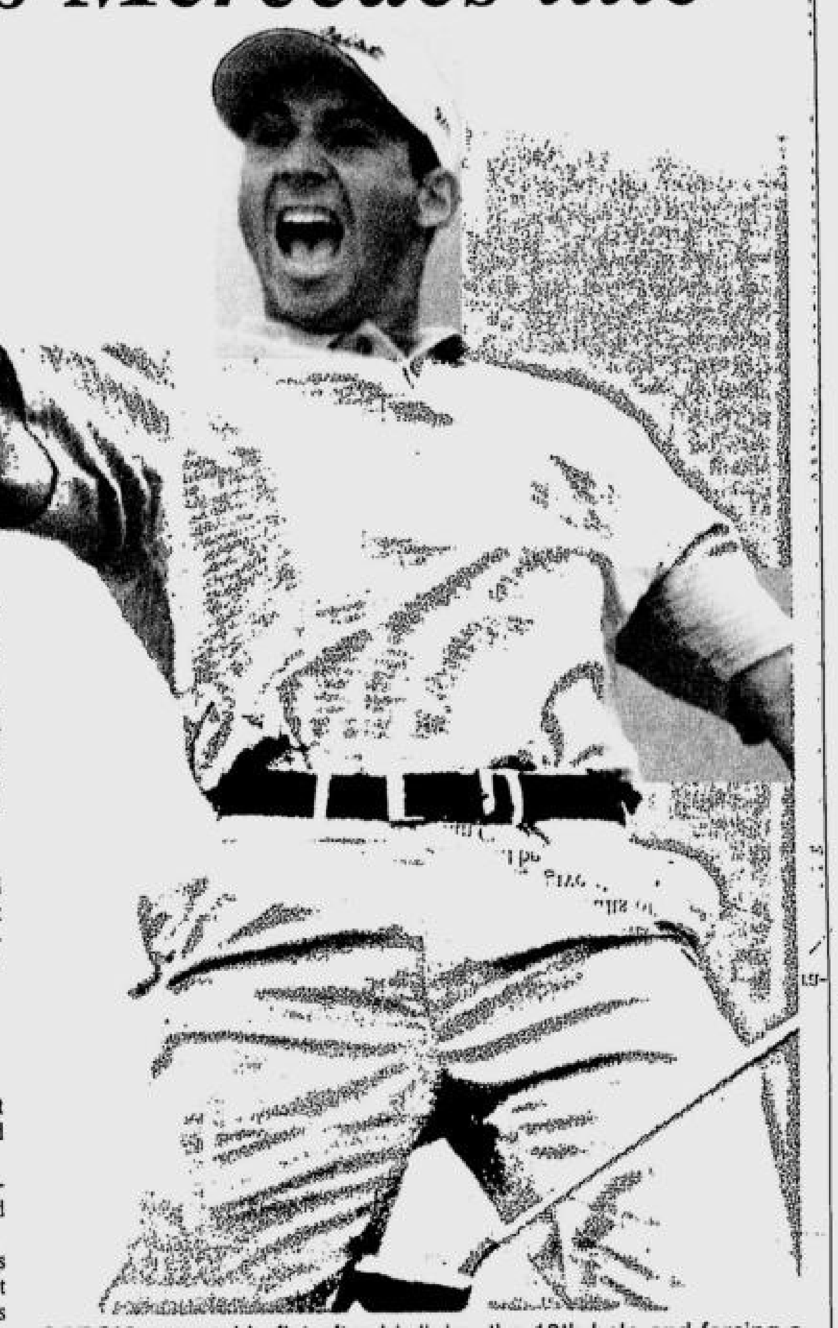
The final round reminded him of his last victory, when he closed with a 9-under 63 in Sun City, South Africa, and then beat Ernie Els in a playoff.

It almost reminded Toms of the PGA Championship.

Needing a birdie 4 to win on the final hole, Toms laid up on the 663-yard 18th, just like he did at Atlanta Athletic Club when he beat Phil Mickelson with a par 4. Trusting a short game that has brought him six victories in the last three years, Toms hit wedge into 10 feet (three-meter) behind the hole.

The repeat finish stopped there.

His birdie putt for the victory curved ever so gently with the grain at the last moment and hung on the left lip, sending him into a playoff. *AP*



GARCIA pumps his fist after birdieing the 18th hole and forcing a playoff against Toms. AP

Tiger's safety assured

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Aware of a threatening letter containing cyanide sent to the US Embassy in New Zealand, Tiger Woods said Sunday he had no plans to withdraw and was assured by tournament officials they would do everything possible to keep it safe.

"Things like this do happen," Woods said after finishing the Mercedes Championships with an 8-under-par 65. "You have to go on living your life. It's unfortunate that people have these types of views and do these types of acts.

"I'm going to go down there and enjoy myself and try to play like I did today."

Police and U.S. Embassy officials said the embassy received a letter last month containing cyanide and threats to disrupt the New Zealand Open, where Woods is playing. *AP*

Dayrit denies he's behind probe of Go

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit finally broke his silence yesterday over the ongoing POC ethics committee investigation on his rival, athletics chief Go Teng Kok, saying he has no hand over the twin probes.

He also denied accusations that he is using the probe body to harass Go, who has been subjected to two investigations in a span of less than a month.

"It (ethics committee) is an independent body, whose main task is to make sure that national sports associations conduct themselves well," said Dayrit.

Last Dec. 19, ethics committee head Rene Cruz asked Go to explain his association with a convicted drug leader. On Jan. 2, Cruz wrote Go again asking him to explain a comment against a fellow NSA president.

Go didn't answer both letters.

Former POC president and Patafa chair Jose Sering branded the letters "pure harassment."

"The most the committee can do is reprimand an NSA official," said Dayrit. "Only the general assembly has the power to impose penalties on erring officials." *Marc Anthony Reyes*

BBFI invt'l tourney on tap

AFTER THE successful 10th year celebration of the Bato Balani Foundation Inc. held last year, BBFI welcomes 2002 with its Invitational Golf Tournament to be held on Jan. 18 in Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas.

The event aims to gather and invigorate the spirit of corporate social responsibility of its partners, donors, and sponsors in their continued support to the BBFI's various education programs.

WAZZZZUP ?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

8th day CAFE ST FRANCIS SQ ORTIGAS CTR — FIRST CIRCLE — PIDO W/ TAKE 1 JAN. 10 ☎ 634.7696/98
Cowboy Grill ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS — KOOLJACKS / SWEETBLOOD — NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill ARQUIZA ST, MALATE — THINKERS w/ JOGRAD / POWER SURGE/FREEZE — NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill REMEDIOS ST, MALATE — SERSIDE / ICE KENDI — NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C. — MR. ROXY / PHYRIGIAN/BEATBOX — NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
MUSIC WAREHOUSE — RAVE RIDGE — 735.12800/735.1405
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST, MAKATI CITY — SPECIAL EDITION / SOUDSTREAM — ☎ 890.4735
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR CAROLINA ST — SPAGHETTI / VERSE 2 — ☎ 522-0429
OUTSIDE METRO MANILA
Cowboy Grill BINAN, LAGUNA. — FAT 16 / FEDDBACK — NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ (049) 511.7268
THE SUMMIT THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL, DAVAO CITY — PLAYBACK JAN. 2-15 / JAZZNIGHT (M- SAT) START JAN. 7 (6-9 PM) — HAPPY HOUR 6-9 PM ☎ (082)-2258888
TUESDAY, JANUARY 08 912-8983

'Bertha' launch slated

CALLAWAY and its exclusive local distributor, Electrobus Consolidated Inc., will launch the much-talked about Big Bertha C4 driver and assortment of other products via an 18-hole tournament tomorrow at the Wack Wack west course.

Two top executives of Callaway International, Bill Fleming and Warren Lee, are arriving to join Electrobus officials Jun Herrera and Glenn Baroma in presiding over the launch that will be held after specially invited guests have tried out the new equipment being introduced in 2002.

Aside from the C4 driver which is touted to be the largest and most forgiving driver design Callaway Golf has ever created, Callaway and Electrobus will also present to dealers and sports editors the Big Bertha Steelhead, the Big Bertha Stainless irons, HX Blue and Red balls, CTU 30 Blue and Red balls, the Odyssey White Hot 2-Ball putter and the Odyssey White Hot Rossie Putter.

There will also be a separate Demo Day at the driving range while the tournament is in progress.

Juvic, Carmelette head DHL-NGAP cast

REIGNING South East Asian games champion Juvic Pagunsan and Carmelette Villaroman will defend their respective titles in the seventh edition of the DHL-NGAP Amateur Golf Championship at the north course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

Pagunsan and Villaroman are the solid favorites in the tourney on Jan. 29-Feb. 1, kicking off the search for the country's representatives to the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea.

The DHL firm of NGAP president Rod Feliciano is sponsoring the event in keeping with its commitment to fully support NGAP's development thrust.

Pagunsan will be up against a formidable cast led by his teammates in the SEA Games and the Putra Cup, the low-handicappers from the business community as well as entries from the provinces as well as the top amateurs from the Visayas and Mindanao region.

Reigning national amateur titlist Angelo Que and Jerome Delariarte of Southwoods have both signed up and the registry will be bolstered by an array of club champions and standouts form the jungolf ranks.

Villaroman, meanwhile, will have a small opposition to contend with following the decision of erstwhile Canlubang stablemate Ruby Chico to campaign in the Futures Tour in the United States.

Only players with handicaps of seven and below will be allowed entry into the 72-hole men's competition and 10 and below in the 54-hole ladies event.

Entry free is P2,000 with the deadline of registration set on Jan. 24 at the NGAP office (tel. nos. 525-6987 or 524-5160 or Canlubang).

Feliciano said that the results of the DHL-NGAP Open would hopefully give them a preview of the kind of team they will be sending to three international events, the Asian Games, World Amateurs in Malaysia and the Putra Cup set in Vietnam.

BOY Cantada (left) welcomes First Gentleman Mike Arroyo at the Wack Wack east course where the latter hit yesterday's ceremonial tee-off for the 5th Philippine International Junior Golf Championship. ROMY HOMILLADA

RP Int'l Jungolf on

THE FIFTH Philippine International Junior Championship, the country's annual event focused on the region's young players, comes off the wraps today at the Wack Wack Golf & Country Club's East Course.

Ninety-two players from eight countries—Australia, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore and host the Philippines—are competing in the 72-hole event ending Friday.

The four-day tournament officially began yesterday with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo hitting the ceremonial ball at 7 a.m. in the presence of the participants, their parents and team officials.

At 5 p.m. the same day, federation president Edgardo "Boy" Cantada staged the opening ceremony with National Golf Association of the Philippines president Rod Feliciano as the special guest.

"We have 43 foreign players and 49 locals taking part," Cantada said. "And on behalf of our federation, I welcome them all. We have four days of golf starting tomorrow and I wish all the players good luck."

Bacolod hosts PAL Interclub Feb. 22-March 2

BACOLOD CITY—Virtually the country's entire golfing fraternity will converge on Sugarlandia when the Philippine Airlines Interclub, the country's most storied gold team tournament, stages its annual championships in Negros Occidental next month.

The 55th edition of the regular Men's Interclub, universally acknowledged as the national amateur golf team championship, will be played from Feb. 27 to March 2.

It will be preceded by the 16th staging of the Seniors Interclub, a separate tournament for the clubs' senior players, from Feb. 22 to 24.

A record number of teams—72 in the Men's and 60 in the Seniors—will see action in the week-long tournament. This is the largest field in the history of the PAL Interclub, surpassing last year's attendance in Cebu, where 70 Men's and 56 Seniors clubs played.

The roster includes 33 foreign teams, also the most ever, hailing from the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Japan, Singapore and Saudi Arabia.

This year's competition, dubbed "Shootout in Sugarlandia," will be jointly played on the sugar-growing province's two premier golf courses—the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club in downtown Bacolod City and the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in nearby Murcia.

SIGNET's Christmas Joy Ride
FREE Chattel Mortgage Fee
FREE 1 Year Comprehensive Insurance
FREE 1 Year LTO Registration
FREE Tint, Matting & Seat Cover
Promo Period: Dec. 14, 2001 to Jan. 14, 2002
D.P. P100,000
21 SEATER CARRY ALL KC2700 PANORAMIC S.R.P. P500,000
Also Available in Aluminum Van & Dropside
D.P. P131,000
4 x 4 CROSSTRAK S.R.P. P655,000
D.P. P113,800 (manual)
D.P. P121,800 (automatic)
RIO Hatchback S.R.P. P569,000 (manual) S.R.P. P609,000 (automatic)
CARNIVAL II Manual & Automatic Transmission S.R.P. P1,039,000 (manual) S.R.P. P1,089,000 (automatic)
DP P207,800 (manual)
DP P217,800 (automatic)
PREGIO RS S.R.P. P620,000
D.P. P124,000
Introducing: The New 2002 Pregio GS Special Edition
KIA
Signet Balintawak
1240 Edsa Balintawak Q.C.
(Sales) 361-0544; 361-6556; 330-8019; 330-6670
Tels.: 362-5091; 362-5092
(Service) 361-0665; 361-8356; 330-6708 Fax: 362-8357
Signet Mandaluyong
# 79 EDSA Mandaluyong City
Tel.: 531-4631 to 33; 531-1949;
531-4424 Fax: 531-4380
Signet Las Piñas
(Infront of SM Southmall)
Tels: 806-2235; 801-7656;
801-7668; 802-1024 Telefax:806-2230
Subject to Bank Approval
Installment Plan: 24 months to 60 months
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 4304 Series of 2001

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Mayor Atienza: Resist chaos

EFFECTIVE law enforcement and a stable peace and order situation would hasten "genuine development" in Manila. This was the message of Mayor Lito Atienza to Manila city policemen yesterday morning during the start of the 101st anniversary celebrations at the Western Police District. Atienza underscored the importance of "the ability of the government, including the police force, to maintain orderliness," as a key factor to the success of his administration's urban renewal program dubbed "Buhayin ang Maynila."

Water cutoff in Caloocan

RESIDENTS living along Dagat Dagatan Avenue in Caloocan City will experience a 14-hour water service interruption starting 10 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 10, until 12 noon the following day. The cutoff is due to the gate valve insertion to be done on a mainline along Dagat-Dagatan Avenue near Tilapia Street, Caloocan City. Those staying at Tanigue, Tulya, Tulingan, Langaray, Lapu-Lapu and Sabalo streets will have low-pressure or no water. For rationing schedule, customers may also call the Maynilad hotline 1626.

After failing with garbage, MMDA takes on traffic fiends

BY ALCUIN PAPA

AUTHORITIES, believe it or not, will try for the umpteenth time to strictly enforce traffic rules on city streets. They've also vowed to mete out stiffer penalties on erring motorists.

Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos yesterday announced that starting Jan. 16, violators of traffic rules and regulations may also face immediate revocation of their licenses.

He added his agency would also strictly require erring motorists to attend traffic seminars which can run from one to three days.

This from the same man who last year vowed to rid Metro Manila of garbage.

Abalos said that the "moves will give more teeth to the law enforcement efforts of our traffic enforcers and policemen."

"I believe these moves will also help instill more discipline among our motorists," he added.

The MMDA will require apprehended motorists to attend seminars for the following traffic offenses: illegal parking, obstruction, illegal loading and unloading, closed door policy, colorum, out-of-line, illegal counterflow, swerving in and out of a lane, reckless driving, driving under the influence of liquor or prohibited drugs, possession of fake driver's license, and allowing another person to use his or her driver's license.

Abalos said the MMDA seminars will, in the end, benefit apprehended motorists because they will gain more knowledge of traffic laws.

"I lament the fact that many motorists do not care to know the most important traffic rules and regulations," Abalos said. "This type of culture must be stopped."

Last year, there was an average of 57,000 traffic apprehensions made by the MMDA per month, or a total of 685,009 apprehensions for 2001.

DREAM RIDE
Once again the happy holiday season is a dream for those who have to rush back to the road to wrestle for a living with an unwilling world. Unlike most city passengers caught in eternal traffic, these riders of a railroad trolley in Sta. Mesa appear in a carefree mood. ERIK ARAZAS

Sorry about the Unitrust bank run

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

TO THE Unitrust bank depositors who lost their lifetime savings because of a bank run caused by an item in this space last Thursday about the bank: I'm so sorry.

But I had to protect the hundreds of thousands of people who might fall victim to a con game played by Genta Ogami, a Japanese swindler who has bought Unitrust.

At least three of my friends who have deposits at Unitrust blame me for that story. One of them, who has substantial deposits in the bank, said I should have told her about the story before I wrote it. Thus informed, she said she could have withdrawn all her deposits.

But I really didn't know my story would cause a bank run!

* * *

Ogami is that guy whose face you've probably seen on billboards put up in strategic places in Metro Manila. He has reportedly duped housewives, office workers and retirees of their hard-earned cash.

His scheme involved convincing small, low-income people to invest in his company, G. Cosmos Philippines. They were told their money would be invested in certain products that were supposedly advertised on Japanese television networks. If the Japanese consumers, so the investors were told, would have positive response to those products, then the investors would earn.

At first Ogami's clients were told that their investments earned profits. They were given their money back, plus the profits. Later, Ogami would ask the clients to invest again, but this time they should put in bigger amounts.

After that, Ogami would tell them that this time around the products which they invested their money in did not earn because Japanese consumers did not buy them.

* * *

Actually, the money put into Ogami's company by investors was not invested in Japan, but right here in this country.

The Filipino investors were fried in their own lard. *Ginisa sa sariling mantika,* as Tagalogs would put it. Ogami's total take : more than P1 billion, repeat billion!

Part of that huge amount he used to buy into the Unltrust bank which was already foundering. Clearly an egoist, what with those billboards showing his face, Ogami would have renamed Unitrust the Philippine Bank of Ogami.

Once, he allegedly swindled a small thrift bank in Bulacan of P170 million. He reportedly got the bank's trust by depositing a huge amount. He later went to the bank to withdraw his deposit. At the same time, he asked for a P170 million loan that he said would be used in a big business venture.

* * *

Ogami allegedly invested in business ventures in the country which failed one after the other. One of such ventures was movie production.

The Japanese reportedly signed a contract with famous actress Joyce Jimenez to do a movie that would have him as the actress' leading man. The nerve of this son of a female dog!

His handlers spread the rumor that Ogami was having an affair with the actress while the movie was being made. The movie that never was would have been titled "Blades of the Sun" where he would have played a samurai warrior. *Napakayabang naman ng Hapon na ito!*

But the movie, which cost $2 million to produce, was never shown. If that movie had been shown, the Japanese would have bolstered his "star" image. He would have fooled a lot more people.

* * *

Ogami is wanted by the Japanese police for allegedly swindling 5,000 of his countrymen in an investment scheme similar to the one he put up in the Philippines.

The money he allegedly earned from fooling his countrymen he invested in putting up billboards showing his face and in TV and newspaper commercials.

Ogami allegedly used Filipino dummies, among them his girlfriend from Bulacan, in putting up G. Cosmos Philippines and other firms.

* * *

The Japanese could have bribed some government officials because his firm was not closed down despite an order.

The Securities and Exchange Commission ordered G. Cosmos to stop operations. Adboard, a private association of advertising agencies, also ordered Ogami to stop advertising on TV and in the newspapers and to tear down his billboards. But the TV commercials and newspaper advertisements still continue. And the billboards are still there.

My secretary called Adboard several times to inquire why its order had not been complied with. The guy who answered the phone said the person handling the complaint against G. Cosmos Philippines was absent. And because the Adboard guy was absent, its order to tear down the billboards could not be enforced. *P@#$%^& n'yo!*

* * *

I called up the Bureau of Immigration to inquire about Ogami's status of stay in the country, whether he was a tourist or an investor.

Commissioner Andrea Domingo told me Ogami visits the country now and then but only for a two-day duration each time. He comes here as a tourist each time, Domingo said.

But how come he was able to put up G. Cosmos Philippines and fool hundreds of thousands of Filipinos?

Boyfriend's guards shot Strawberry by mistake, NBI told

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

IT WAS the two security guards of Strawberry's boyfriend, John Mark Doromal, who fired the shots that killed the former child actress, a witness told officials of the National Bureau of Investigation.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said the witness alleged in a statement that the security guards—employees of Doromal's father who owns a security agency in Las Piñas—fired on the actress' car, following a traffic altercation last month.

"(The witness) saw Mark Doromal berating the two security guards," Wycoco said. "The insinuation is that the guards mistakenly shot Strawberry."

"Mark did not open fire; it was the guards," the witness said in his statement.

Wycoco declined to name the suspects and the witness, who were turned over yesterday to the Philippine National Police.

Wycoco said he found the witness to be "very credible."

"He was there at the scene of the crime at the time," he said.

Strawberry, whose real name was Anouk Baldo, died on Dec. 20, two days after the fatal shooting in Las Piñas.

On Tuesday night, Doromal figured in a traffic spat with the sons of businessman Raynaldo Picar. This led to an ugly confrontation at the BF Executive Village in Las Piñas, where Strawberry was shot.

STRAWBERRY

Doromal reportedly took the guards from his father's security agency to go after the Picar brothers.

Wycoco said the bureau is still studying if the evidence warrants the filing of charges against Doromal.

He said the witness will also be included in the government's Witness Protection Program.

"That is very important because he is accusing people who have guns," Wycoco said of the witness.

Wycoco also denied that NBI agents tried to kidnap Ronald Picar on Friday.

"The NBI has nothing to do with that 'drama,'" Wycoco said. "If they were NBI people, and they had something evil in mind, why introduce themselves?"

Just how tough are the Picars?

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

"THEY don't know who we are."

This was the stern warning issued by a son of businessman Raynaldo Picar to Strawberry's boyfriend after his alleged kidnapping last Friday.

Ronaldo Picar, 30, warned that those behind his supposed abduction and those who have allegedly been casing his house in Las Piñas should not take his family lightly.

Although he did not directly accuse the boyfriend, Mark Doromal, of staging the supposed abduction, Picar said the incident was connected with the fatal shooting of Anok "Strawberry" Baldo.

"He'll burn in hell, that's for sure," a fuming Ronald yesterday said of Doromal.

Picar was so angry with Doromal that he even challenged him to a fistfight and vowed to beat him up.

Raynaldo Picar's family and Doromal have been accusing each other of killing Strawberry following a petty traffic altercation in Las Piñas before Christmas. Both of them have come up with entirely different accounts of the incident.

The younger Picar yesterday claimed that armed men, who supposedly identified themselves as National Bureau of Investigation agents, seized him and took him to a safe house in Antipolo.

Picar claimed he was tortured into admitting that it was he and his family who shot and killed Strawberry.

300 cops on guard for Nazarene fiesta

THIS woman, herself a devotee, displays articles for sale in time for the Feast of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo tomorrow. As in past celebrations, a tumultuous crowd will come to join the procession, centerpiece of the annual feast. JESS YUSON

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE WESTERN Police District (WPD) will be on full alert to ensure order in the traditionally chaotic Feast of the Black Nazarene in the Quiapo district tomorrow.

At least 300 policemen will be deployed in Quiapo, said Supt. Elmer Jamias, WPD-Traffic Enforcement Group chief, with 100 cops to concentrate on managing traffic.

The traffic and security preparations come amid rumors of an impending coup and the discovery of a bomb in the Makati financial district recently.

"I'll personally handle things there as early as 5 a.m. We have sufficient personnel to cover the area, they'll come from Sectors 2 and 3 of the district," Jamias said.

WPD spokesman Chief/Insp. Gerry Agunod added that at least 100 lawmen from the headquarters support group would also be detailed near the Quiapo Church to manage the huge crowds expected for the feast.

Despite the Rizal Day bombings in 2001, a mammoth crowd turned out for Black Nazarene feast day procession, one of the biggest celebrations of Catholic piety in the country.

Agunod said another 100 policemen would also be deployed to secure Quiapo's side streets for the tumultuous procession which would pass through Plaza del Carmen, Viejo, Raon, Mendoza, Hidalgo, Carcer, Aguila, Legarda, Arlegui, Barbosa, Palanca, Gomez, Ronquillo, Evangelista, Puyat, Quezon Boulevard, and Plaza Miranda.

Meanwhile, the WPD has also started its preparations for its 101st anniversary, which also falls tomorrow. The anniversary celebration kicked off with a bloodletting by policemen at the WPD headquarters and along T.M. Kalaw Street in Manila yesterday.

The WPD will conduct a medical mission today in Tondo, and will hold its anniversary party at the Philamlife auditorium tomorrow night. Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. will be the guest of honor in tomorrow's event.

Never again, Pagcor says of poisoning

BY JEROME ANING

EMPLOYEES of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. who were downed by suspected food poisoning last week will not spend for their hospitalization, the agency's chair said yesterday.

Efraim Genuino described as "unfortunate" the alleged food poisoning incident which downed about 100 Pagcor employes at the Casino Filipino Pavillion of the Holiday Inn Manila in Ermita.

"(I)t should never happen again," he said. "We told (the Holiday Inn management) to take all the necessary measures to ensure the quality of the food they cater to our people."

Genuino visited the Manila Doctors Hospital and the Manila Medical Center, where the stricken workers were confined, and assured their families of Pagcor's concern, commitment and full support.

He said he has instructed Pagcor's health office to supervise and oversee the hospitalization and other medical needs of the sick employees.

The Pagcor chair said he would wait for the findings of the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center as well as the city health office.

Two batches of Pagcor employees were hospitalized when they reportedly experienced abdominal pains, nausea and vomiting after eating dinner on Wednesday and Thursday last week.

Squatters reject transfer to Payatas danger zone

BY AGNES E. DONATO

SOME 30 residents of Payatas, Quezon City yesterday staged a picket in front of City Hall to protest Mayor Sonny Belmonte's alleged order to demolish their shanties and transfer them near the site where a mountain of garbage collapsed and killed more than 200 people two years ago.

While Belmonte admitted he issued an order to demolish the shanties, he said there was no such plan to relocate them to the so-called "danger zone" in Payatas, site of a former garbage facility in Quezon City.

Soledad Tapion, 51, of Bicol Street, Payatas B, claimed a certain Colonel Jaymalin recently informed them of the planned demolition.

Each family, Tapion said, was promised P2,000, which they could use to buy materials to build their new house.

Some 100 families will reportedly be affected by the demolition.

But Tapion lamented that the relocation site, a property of the Government Service Insurance System, was too close to the former dumpsite where 230 Payatas residents, most of whom worked as scavengers at the dumpsite, were killed in an avalanche in July 2000.

"We don't mind being transferred to another community, as long as it is not worse than our place right now," Tapion said.

But in a phone interview, Belmonte denied the residents' claim.

"That's crazy," the mayor said. "My order is to transfer the families living in the Burias-Masbate area farther away from the dumpsite because their lives are in peril."

He added he had already discussed his order with some of the residents who went to his office yesterday.

'BAGONG BUWAN'

Caught in the crossfire of its own rhetoric

BY MIKE RAPATAN,
FSC Contributor

MARILOU Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" examines the thorny dimensions of the Muslim-Christian conflict in war-weary Mindanao. Based on the true-to-life experiences of various Muslim refugees and civilians dislocated by military operations, the screenplay by Abaya, Jun Lana and Ricky Lee aims to give a human face to the scores of victims of violence, hatred and abuse and sound an urgent call to peace and interfaith dialogue.

Abaya charts this narrative course by focusing on the transformation of Ahmad (Cesar Montano) from a peace-loving Manila-trained doctor to a battle-worn fighter and protector of his Bangsamoro family and friends. Abaya piles up the dramatic motivations for Ahmad's rude awakening and change starting with the death of his son, Ibrahim, and on to the death of his mother, Farida (Caridad Sanchez). Along the way, Abaya shows us Ahmad witnessing the brutality of vigilantes and military troops bent on ferreting out MILF rebels from refugee camps and their brazen desecration of village mosques. This latter incident proves too unbearable for Ahmad who quickly grabs a gun and shoots down the sacrilegious soldiers.

Splendid

With the help of splendid cinematography by Eduardo Jacinto, crisp sound engineering by Albert Michael Idioma, live sound recording by Rudy Gonzales and appropriate musical scoring by Nonong Buencamino, Abaya strives to capture both the mounting hardships that Ahmad and his group undergo as they seek a safe cover and the process of Ahmad's capitulation to violence. Abaya tries to escalate the tension in the film much like the way a fuse first ignites then flares and finally blows up in a dramatic explosion. But the anticipated big bang ends up sounding like a big clang as characterization and emotion give way to earnest talk and ponderous debate.

BEST supporting actor winner Ronnie Lazaro as Datu Ali.

There is no doubt that the issues that film's character raise every now and then are real and deserving of our attention and reflection. However, the dominance of this subject in the characters' dialogues renders the characters as types emblematic of diverging viewpoints bidding for equal screen time and treatment. Instead of watching believable persons which one can empathize with, one looks at an array of figures serving as mouthpieces for particular takes on the Muslim-Christian conflict. Talented actors like Cesar Montano, Jericho Rosales (as Lt. Ricarte), Ronnie Lazaro (as Datu Ali), Noni Buencamino (as Musa) and Amy Austria (as Fatima) appear straitjacketed into roles which are either erratic in their development or shallow in their realization but consistent in their lecturing. One sees these characters move from site to site unpacking their own baggage of arguments, warnings or lessons. For example, a narrative ploy where the young Rashid (Carlo Aquino) is set up against the urban boy Francis (Jiro Manio) to signify the future of Muslim-Christian relations appears contrived and superficial as their exchanges wallow in exposition and mini-critiques about the nature and causes of the war.

Didacticism

This didacticism effects a kind of spectacle of rhetoric where the film's pivotal points and major characters' dramatic scenes are defined less by the breadth of their motivations and emotions and more by the depth of the characters' insights. Drama is often displaced by polemics springing up at some of the most crucial scenes. For instance, Ahmad's wife, Fatima, segues from her lamentation for her dead son into a sermonette to Ahmad on the usefulness of his medical skills to other Muslim children. A similar sentiment ekes out of Farida who at the throes of death manages to exhort Francis to tell his fellow Christians the stories of her people's struggles.

That request is also addressed to the audience and the film hopes the audience will pick up this appeal. But in a downtown pang-*masa* theater where I watched the film, some members of the audience responded with loud yawns. For by the time Farida died, the audience had already gotten the point hammered over their heads and felt that anymore italicization of the film's peace message would have just numbed them. Although the film strives to represent the voice of the minority, the leaden treatment of these issues makes the audience feel more distant and apart from our Muslim brethren. The audience finds itself nowhere near the nerve center of the crisis. Thus, in spite of all the characters' analysis crammed with stock social commentary, the film fails to present a personally involving account of the strife of ordinary people in Mindanao. As one leaves the theater, one feels like having sat through a talk show where like Ahmad one is trapped in a crossfire of rhetoric.

MONTANO. Included in his new projects are movies with Regine Velasquez and Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo.

New roles for Cesar in the new year

BY REMY M. UMEREZ

THREE days after Cesar Montano delivered a "loaded" acceptance speech when he received his best actor award at the recent Metro Manila Film Festival, he hied off to his farm in Pandi, Bulacan, with his wife Sunshine and daughter Angelina. But it was not to cool off or celebrate the award bestowed on him for his role "Bagong Buwan."

His manager Norma Japitana said a reunion of the Montano family, which was planned months ago was the reason the multi-awarded actor went to his farm. Cesar's sister Mercedes, a teacher in Italy, was home for the holidays.

The two-hectare farm has yet to yield fruits from the mango trees Cesar himself planted.

"He bought this piece of land five years ago and there was nothing on it but dry grass," says Norma. "He bought some fruit bearing seedlings and even constructed a pond for raising *tilapia.* He raises chickens, too. You are lucky to get stranded on this farm because it has everything. No pollution *at hindi ka magugutom* (and you won't go hungry). Cesar loves to commune with nature."

For the reunion, Cesar served roasted calf and red wine. *Tito* Rads or Rading Carlos catered the affair, which was strictly non-showbiz.

Michelle Aldana, who lives a town away from Cesar's farm, was the surprise guest. She is now based in Germany where her husband Kristolf works. The couple has a baby boy and has decided spend Christmas in the Philippines.

When Michelle was active in show business, Norma also managed her career.

The New Year has brought more roles for Cesar, who was offered to appear in a movie with Mikey Macapagal-Arroyo. Cesar was said to be agreeable to the prospect of appearing with the President's son, provided the script is good.

Another movie offer is a possible team-up with singer-actress Regine Velasquez, who scored two big hits last year with "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw" and "Pangako."

Cesar likes the idea of making a movie with Regine he is keeping his fingers crossed, hoping it will be the first movie he will do in 2002. He is also toying with the idea of singing a duet with Regine. Cesar has waxed an album under Star Records called "Subok Lang."

How about an exchange of passionate kisses with Regine, who has agreed to kiss her previous leading men Robin Padilla and Aga Muhlach? No problem, Cesar beams.

But Cesar says he will definitely not direct the movie himself as he did in "Mananabas." Toto Natividad or Joey del Rosario are his personal choices.

Cesar adds that directing a movie specially if he is also its star is both physically and mentally draining.

For the year that was, Cesar was as busy as Sharon Cuneta when it came to product endorsements. His recent was for a brand of sardines, which Cesar claims he eats for breakfast. The same thing is also true with the particular brand of underwear, which he wears in real life. But Cesar won't endorse cigarette and liquor brands even for a tempting talent fee.

Without question, Marilou Diaz-Abaya is his favorite director. Of the three movies they have done, Cesar considers "Bagong Buwan" as Marilou's best. For him, the movie is the best picture in the MMFF.

This January, Cesar and Sunshine will leave for the US for an extended holiday and to watch a Broadway play, starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick.

The Company sings a 'Storybook'

BY LEAH SALTERIO

ONE is wont to ask why the title of The Company's latest album is "Storybook." Will they tell stories through music?

True enough, "Storybook" features poignant stories in song form, written by first-rate songwriters Edith Gallardo and Babsie Molina, with The Company's Moy Ortiz.

The songs feature mini movies or vignettes depicting the different aspects of love like joy, regret, sorrow, contentment. They are arranged in different music genres like pop, adult contemporary, smooth jazz, country pop, pop-rock and *a capella,* which The Company is popularly known for.

"Since 1993, we've made a conscious effort to be chameleon-like with our approach to our music and our image," explains Moy Ortiz. "We've had fun reinventing the sound and look of the group every time we come out and we've pushed the envelope more than a couple of times, too.

"However, just when people already expect that each album release is going to sound and look really theatrical and artsy, we decided to go to the other side of the continuum. Let's just do things the way we did when we first released our first two albums. Let's just rely on the beauty of the songs and the singing to sell the album and nothing else."

Thus, "Storybook" is the first all-OPM album of The Company in six years. Thank God, there are no mushy revivals on this album.

The Company comes out with "Storybook" after a hiatus from the recording scene of nearly two years. From erstwhile recording outfit BMG Records, the vocal sextet signed up a contract with Viva Records, which released "Storybook" in its newest label, Pop Art Music.

First single off the album is "Pagkataon," performed by Reuben Laurente, the voice behind such hits as "Pakisabi na Lang," "Special Memory" and "Afraid for Love To Fade." Once again, Reuben sings the vocals on a potential chart-topper. The heart-warming pop ballad was penned by Edith Gallardo with melody by Moy Ortiz—the same duo behind Aiza Seguerra's monster hit, "Pagdating ng Panahon."

THE COMPANY. Back in the recording scene after a two-year hiatus

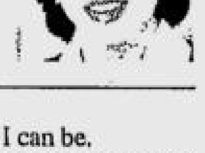
Other tracks on "Storybook" are "Minsan Isang Araw," "Baka Ikaw" (second single), "I've Been Here Before," "Gusto Ko ng A Capella," "Alam Mo Ba?," "Sabi Ko Na Nga," "Ikaw Pa Ba Yan," "Kung Kailan Pa," "You Made Me the Best," "Between the Lines" and "A Little Love Goes A Long Way."

The Company is composed of Moy Ortiz, Reuben Laurente, Annie Quintos, Cecille Bautista, Sweet Plantado and Andre Castillo.

"Storybook" will go on a nationwide tour this month, with visits to SM Sucat (Jan. 12), SM North Edsa (Jan. 13), SM Cebu (Jan. 19), SM Manila (Jan. 25), Jan. 27 (SM Iloilo), SM Southmall (Feb. 1), SM Fairview (Feb. 3), SM Pampanga (Feb. 9) and SM Davao (still to be scheduled).

Letting go and giving up excess baggage

DOLLYWOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN the new year revelry is over and done with, we find ourselves grappling with a certain degree of fear as to what the new year has in store for us. It's not that we're pessimists; it's just that reality hits us smack in the face just when we feel like we're in a dream.

Even stars have to learn to live with the unpredictability of show biz. One day they're up. Next day they're down. Still, we must all try to welcome the new year with as much hope and faith as we can.

Let me share with you this favorite piece as you meet 2002.

"To let go does not mean to stop caring; it means I can't do it for someone else.

"To let go is not to cut myself off; it's the realization I can't control another.

"To let go is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

"To let go is to enable, but also to allow learning from natural consequences.

"To let go is not to try to change or blame another; it's to make the most of myself.

"To let go is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

"To let go is not to be in the middle arranging all the outcomes, but to allow others to affect their destinies.

"To let go is not to be protective; it's to permit another to face reality.

"To let go is not to nag, scold, or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

"To let go is not to criticize and regulate, but to try to become what I dream I can be.

"To let go is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.

"To let go is not to deny, but to accept.

"To let go is to fear less, and love more." — *Author Unknown*

Excess and ex-es

GETTING rid of all the excess baggage and of ex-es from the past year will help us travel lightly in this year of the horse. With that in mind, I came up with a few suggestions on what some stars should junk in the new year. Sometimes people don't know unless they're told.

Jericho Rosales and **Kristine Hermosa**: Junk the slumbook-type answers. If directors can squeeze out your acting capabilities, why can't your die-hard fans squeeze something more than monosyllabic or innocuous answers from both of you?

Piolo Pascual and **Judy Ann Santos**: Give up those evading tactics. Once and for all, both of you should tell it like it is. Still, mystery is part of the charm of your tandem. Besides, most love teams often resort to love "schemes."

Robin Padilla and **Sharon Cuneta**: Change the overused mold of your box-office hits. No doubt the tandem is unbeatable, but the public deserves not just something new but something better. As a die hard Sharonian puts it, "Robin and Sharon's latest film 'Pagdating ng Panahon' was great but she should leave those roles to KC already. Robin and Sharon should outgrow such mushy stuff."

Aga Muhlach: Release those bottled up feelings toward your *Tita* Nena (**Amalia Fuentes**) and the rest of the Muhlach clan. Whatever those emotions may be, apathy is not one of them.

Cesar Montano: Stop overeacting. People have varied reactions to your "thank-you" speech during the recent Metro Manila Filmfest Awards. You won best actor but your movie "Bagong Buwan" lost to "Yamashita" for best picture.

You may have been exercising freedom of speech, but even jokes are half-meant, aren't they? By belittling the judges' choice of best picture, doesn't it follow that you also questioned their choice of best actor, meaning you? Come on, Cesar, as a multi-awarded actor you're never guilty of overacting. Now why overreact?

(To be continued)

Due to e-mail overload, please take note of my additional e-mail address. Thanks to you, dear readers, for keeping me attuned.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com or friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Alma returns to Cebu for benefit concert

INSPIRED by the rousing success of her show in Lahug City in 2000, Alma Moreno returns to Cebu this month to do another benefit variety musicale for her own foundation that helps indigent families bury their dead in Paranaque City.

Billed "Loveli-Ness . . . Once More! Live in Cebu City," the star-studded show, featuring a cavalcade of young artists and durable performers, will be held Jan. 18 at the Cebu Coliseum Complex.

Alma will be joined by Angelika de la Cruz, Marvin Agustin, Dulce, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Isabel Granada, LJ Moreno, Eric Quizon, Rufa Mae Quinto, Vandolph, Tia Pusit, Leonard Obal, Raffy Chan and The Kit-Kats, Geleen Eugenio and the Universal Dancers.

Eight major sponsors are supporting the show. Proceeds will go to Libre-Libing Foundation Inc., which Alma set up to help the poor constituents of Parañaque, where her husband, Joey P. Marquez, is the city mayor.

These are the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Negros Navigation, Amoco Travel-Parañaque City, Charlie 101.9 FM, Angel Radyo AM, The Freeman, Columbia Air Freight Corp. Inc. and Nature's Spring.

For Alma, diagnosed with a disabling disease and who is still recovering from son Vandolph's road accident, the show must go on.

The Cebu repeat, according to her, was a commitment made long before the two tragic incidents happened.

ALMA Moreno with Raffy Chan and The Kit-Kats.

AYALA CINEMAS
NOW SHOWING

YOUR 24-HOUR LINK TO ALL AYALA CINEMAS 729 - 7777
reserve seats through www.sureseats.com

All Digital Sound

GLORIETTA 1 (formerly QUAD)

1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	ON THE LINE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS (THX)	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	GLASS HOUSE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	ON THE LINE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

Art Film

GREENBELT

1	JAN DARA	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ON THE LINE	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEEKEND WITH POPS (Onstage)	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE LORD OF THE RINGS (THX)	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ON THE LINE	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4 GOLD (DTS)	YAMASHITA
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BAGONG BUWAN
8	ON THE LINE
9	BAHAY NI LOLA
10	HUBOG

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	YAMASHITA
2	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
3 (DTS)	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
4	HUBOG
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	HUBOG

METROPOLIS star
543.3927 loc. 150

1	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	MVP
6	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13

1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	BAHAY NI LOLA

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
3	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BATANG LANSANGAN
A	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	BAHAY NI LOLA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	HUBOG
5	YAMASHITA
6	ON THE LINE
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY
8 (SDDS)	GLASS HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
4 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	ON THE LINE
6 (DOLBY)	HUBOG
7 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY
8	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
9	LORD OF THE RINGS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY
2	HUBOG
3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
7 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	BAHAY NI LOLA

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS)	HUBOG
4	YAMASHITA
5 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TATARIN
Lords	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
Jennet	HUBOG

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
3	YAMASHITA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	YAMASHITA
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
5	BEHIND ENEMY

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
3	BEHIND ENEMY
4	CLOSED
5	CLOSED
6	HUBOG

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BRO, KAHIT SAAN
2	HUBOG
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	BEHIND ENEMY
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2 (DTS)	BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DOLBY)	BEHIND ENEMY
4	YAMASHITA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2 (DOLBY)	YAMASHITA
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY
4	BAGONG BUWAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	HUBOG
2	TATARIN
3 (DOLBY)	BAHAY NI LOLA
4 (DTS)	YAMASHITA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BEHIND ENEMY
3	YAMASHITA
4 (DTS)	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY
4	4 FATHERS
5	BAGONG BUWAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	BEHIND ENEMY
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	TATARIN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TATARIN
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	YAMASHITA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	BEHIND ENEMY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4806

1 (DTS)	BAGONG BUWAN
2 (DTS)	BEHIND ENEMY

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	YAMASHITA
4	ROCKSTAR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

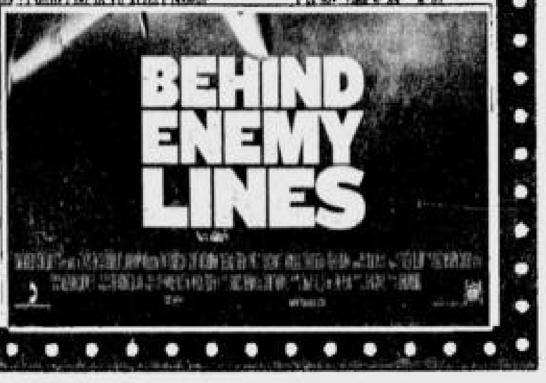
1 (DOLBY EX)	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4 (DTS EX)	BAHAY NI LOLA

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

CMG INTERNATIONAL

PREMIERE CINEMA THX NOW SHOWING



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
State-Of-The-Art-Cinemas
NOW SHOWING
e-mail : htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA 632-9116-16 / 633-7641 loc. 270

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	LORD OF THE RING
6	ON THE LINE
7	BEHIND ENEMY
8	BAHAY NI LOLA
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	YAMASHITA

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BEHIND ENEMY
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	GLASS HOUSE
5	LORD OF THE RING
6	LORD OF THE RING
7	ON THE LINE

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	HUBOG
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	YAMASHITA
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	BRO
7	BEHIND ENEMY
8	BAHAY NI LOLA

NOVALICHES 936-3228 TO 31

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	BEHIND ENEMY
4	YAMASHITA
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	BAGONG BUWAN
7	ON THE LINE
8	BRO

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	YAMASHITA
4	ON THE LINE
5	LORD OF THE RING
6	BEHIND ENEMY

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0458

1	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	BAHAY NI LOLA
4	THE SCORE
5	ROCKSTAR
6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

ILOILO (033) 336- 8077 / 8078

1	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	BAHAY NI LOLA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	TATARIN
6	SUMMER CATCH

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	YAMASHITA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAHAY NI LOLA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	HUBOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BRO KAHIT SAANG ENGKWENTRO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	DOS EKIS / WILD SIDE
ODEON	LORD OF THE RINGS
ODEON-2	HUBOG
ROBEN	BRO. KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
REMAR	BRO. KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
REMAR-2	HUBOG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
B	BRO. KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
C	HUBOG

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	YAMASHITA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
CINEMA-3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	THE GLASS HOUSE
CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

‘LOTR’ at Greenhills Theater

"LORD of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" starts year 2002 for the new Greenhills Theater Mall Cinemas.

The film adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's novel stars Elijah Wood, Viggo Mortensen, Cate Blanchett and Liv Tyler.

Other films to be shown at the Greenhills Theater Mall Cinemas include the action-thriller "Spy Games" with Brad Pitt and Robert Redford.

The Greenhills Theater Mall cinema is a 255-seater exceptional theater, complete with all the works like digital sound, upholstered seats and wall-to-wall carpeting.

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	YAMASHITA
2	ON THE LINE
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	BRO, KAHIT SAAN
8	HUBOG

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	HUBOG
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	BRO, KAHIT SAAN
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	ON THE LINE
9	YAMASHITA
10	TATARIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
5	YAMASHITA
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	TATARIN
11	ON THE LINE
12	BRO, KAHIT SAAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	ON THE LINE
5	YAMASHITA
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	BAHAY NI LOLA
9	LORD OF THE RINGS
10	HUBOG
11	TATARIN
12	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
4	LORD OF THE RING
5	YAMASHITA
6	ON THE LINE
7	HUBOG
8	LORD OF THE RING
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	TATARIN
12	BAHAY NI LOLA

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	HUBOG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HUBOG
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	YAMASHITA
5	ON THE LINE
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	TATARIN
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	GLASS HOUSE
12	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM SOUTHMALL
8066086 • 8066782

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	ON THE LINE
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAHAY NI LOLA
5	TATARIN
6	HUBOG
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	YAMASHITA
10	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	TATARIN
2	LORD OF THE RINGS
3	BEHIND ENEMY LINES

SM CEBU
2313876

1	ON THE LINE
2	MUSKETEER
3	SUMMER CATCH
4	MVP
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	4 FATHERS
7	4 FATHERS

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	HUBOG
2	CLOSED
3	SUMMER CATCH
4	YAMASHITA
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	CLOSED
8	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	ON THE LINE
3	YAMASHITA
4	BATANG LANSANGAN
5	HUBOG
6	BAHAY NI LOLA

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	BEHIND ENEMY LINES
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	ON THE LINE

SM DAVAO

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	ON THE LINE
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6	SUMMER CATCH

dts DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

More child psychologists needed for MTRCB

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR many years now, the selection of members of the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board has been premised on "cross-section of society" representation. Thus, you have lawyers, artists, teachers, civic or religious leaders, representatives of the youth, media people, etc.

But, if our society is to be represented in a balanced way in the MTRCB, shouldn't some of the members come from the lower economic classes, the blue-collar workers, etc.? After all, the majority of our population is made up of these people—sari-sari store owners, jeepney drivers. service personnel and construction workers.

Of course, this suggestion would shock some intellectual and civic leaders. They would point out that some class C-D people aren't well-educated and may not be film-savvy.

Our response: *truly representative* MTRCB membership is a more important consideration because the classification body is supposed to base its evaluations on *prevailing community standards*—and "community" means not just the leading A-B level, but the whole A-B-C-D-E aggrupation.

This is crucial because some "leaders" of society may be imposing their own, overly-severe standards of behavior on the rest of our society. Something that these well-born and high-minded few find shocking may be much less so to people who don't live in villages but in the *gilid*—and *they* comprise the majority of our society whose standards are supposed to prevail.

But the key suggestion we want to make is for the MTRCB to have more child psychologists among its members. We believe that adult viewers can pretty much decide things for themselves (because they're adults!), so the MTRCB's main function should be to protect minors from film material that is too mature for them to adequately handle.

If so, the MTRCB has to develop a keen sense of what kind of film material is potentially problematic for children and other youths below 18. And the professionals who have the keenest understanding of this are the child psychologists. The rest of us can surmise, but they know.

So, let's not have so many lawyers, relatives of military officers, etc. on the board. Replace them with more child psychologists, and our youths will be better protected from unsavory TV-film fare.

This, and the democratization of the MTRCB through the inclusion of representatives of the C-D-E economic classes, may be what the classification board needs to truly revitalize itself this year.

'From Hell'

JOHNNY Depp loves "dark" stories, and you can't get much darker than the tale of Jack the Ripper, so he's portraying the detective who pursues the infamous serial killer in his latest film, "From Hell." His costars are **Heather Graham** ("Lost in Space") and **Robbie Coltrane** ("Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Sone").

As Inspector Fred Abberline, a cop with a troubled past, Depp has his hands full tracking down the crafty and mysterious killer. The case takes a personal turn when Abberline falls for one of the prostitutes (Graham) who are being hounded by the Ripper.

Since we know that the Ripper's serial murders haven't been solved in over a hundred years, the film isn't bound to have a cathartic ending.

But it promises to be an absorbing and provocative viewing experience because this latest big-screen retelling focuses on a conspiracy theory that could reach the highest levels of government in England.

That's certainly a fresh take on the mystery, and it's prompted by the 1999 novel by **Alan Moore** on which the movie has been based.

"From Hell" is directed by siblings **Allen** and **Albert Hughes**, who stress the elements of corruption, violence and poverty in their dramatization of the dark events of Autumn, 1888, when "the Whitechapel murderer," as the Ripper was known then, killed his first victim.

Lea sings Broadway tunes in two-night show

AFTER making waves anew in the Los Angeles production of "Flower Drum Song," international superstar Lea Salonga is back in the local concert scene with "Lea Salonga: The Broadway Concert," Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at the PICC Plenary Hall.

The concert will have Lea singing an all-Broadway repertoire lifted from some of the hottest Broadway hits like "Maybe" and "Tomorrow" from "Annie," "Hopelessly Devoted To You" from "Grease," "Someone Like You" from "Jekyll and Hyde," "Fallin'" from "They're Playing Our Song," "Love, Look Away" from "Flower Drum Song," "Someone To Watch Over Me" from "Crazy for You," "Maybe This Time" from "Cabaret," "On My Own" from "Les Miserables" and "People" from "Funny Girl."

Lea will also do a medley of songs culled from Andrew Lloyd Weber's hit musicals like "I Don't Know How To Love Him" from "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Unexpected Song" from "Song and Dance" and "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" from "Evita."

Joining Lea in the concert are Michael de Mesa, Calvin Millado, Carlo Orosa and the 60-piece San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts Orchestra, with Gerard Salonga as musical director.

Tickets to the concert at P3,000, P2,500, Pl,800, P1,200, P900 and P600 are now available at all Ticket World outlets.

For ticket inquiries and reservations, call 891-5610.

War documentary to be screened at UP Film Center

"MEMORIES of a Forgotten War," a documentary on the Philippine-American war of 1899, will be screened for the first time in Manila, at 2 and 7 p.m. today at the UP Film Center in Diliman, Quezon City.

The documentary, filmed in Vigan and Jolo, is jointly directed by Camilla Benolirao Griggers and Sari Lluch Dalena.

At 3 p.m., a panel discussion on "Documenting War for the Public Record" will be held. Panelists are Dr. Bien Lumbera, Conrado de Quiros and Dr. Mila Guerrero. Moderator is Dr. Felice Rodriguez.

Guest of honor for the gala screening is Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Grace Nono, who also did the musical score for the documentary, is the guest performer.

Admission is free. For inquiries, call the UP Film Center at 926-3640 or 925-0286.

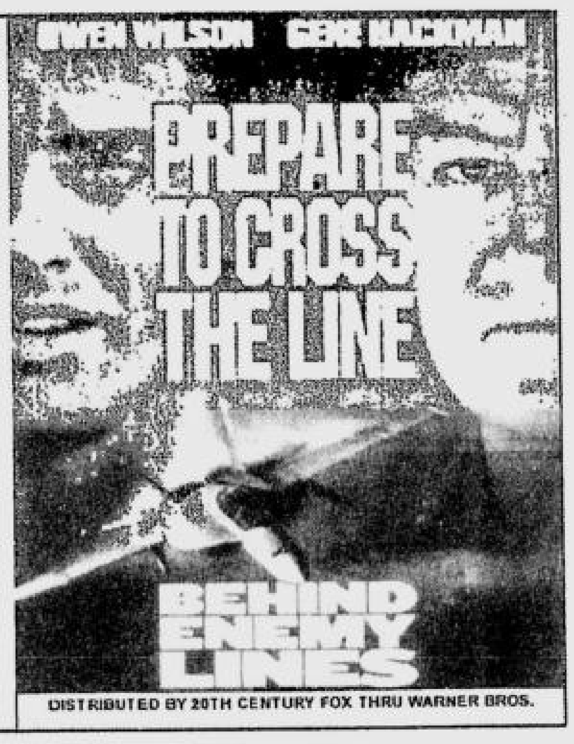
DIRECTORS Camilla Benolirao Griggers (right) and Sari Lluch Dalena.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

ON THE LINE - GP 11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 1:00, 4:30, 8:00	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:05, 2:35, 6:05, 9:35
LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 10:20, 1:50, 5:20, 8:50	GLASS HOUSE - P 13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

ADVANCED SCREENINGS
TODAY!
@
The All Digital Sound
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
729-7777
Your 24-Hour Link to All Ayala Cinemas
A UNIQUE CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE
That's What Showing At Ayala Cinemas.
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



OWEN WILSON GENE HACKMAN
PREPARE TO CROSS THE LINE
BEHIND ENEMY LINES

DISTRIBUTED BY 20TH CENTURY FOX THRU WARNER BROS.

NOW SHOWING
@
The All Digital Sound
AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 / GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
729-7777
Your 24-Hour Link to All Ayala Cinemas
A UNIQUE CINEMATIC EXPERIENCE
That's What Showing At Ayala Cinemas.
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage
THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

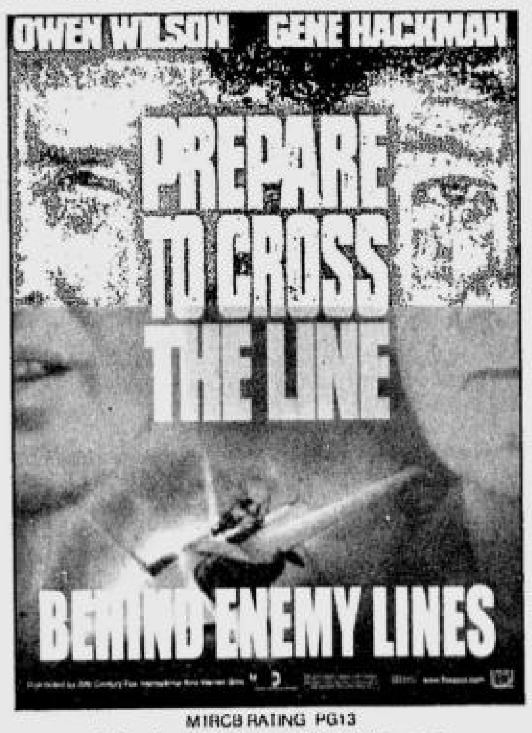
One ring to rule them all. One ring to find them.
One ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them.
THE LORD OF THE RINGS
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED
MANHATTAN ASIA FILMS, INC.

Joko Diaz
Bobby Andrews
Sunshine Dizon
Joanna Gonzales
and
Shaina Magdayao
"Mga Batang Lansangan... Ngayon"
mister Donut
PCSO

Ellen's
SKIN CARE & PERMANENT COSMETICS CORPORATION
Aesthetic Center
Red Ribbon Bakeshop
create
splash cologne
in three floral scents: PEACE, LOVE and HAPPINESS

SM CINEMA
BE THE FIRST
TO WATCH THE
SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW OF



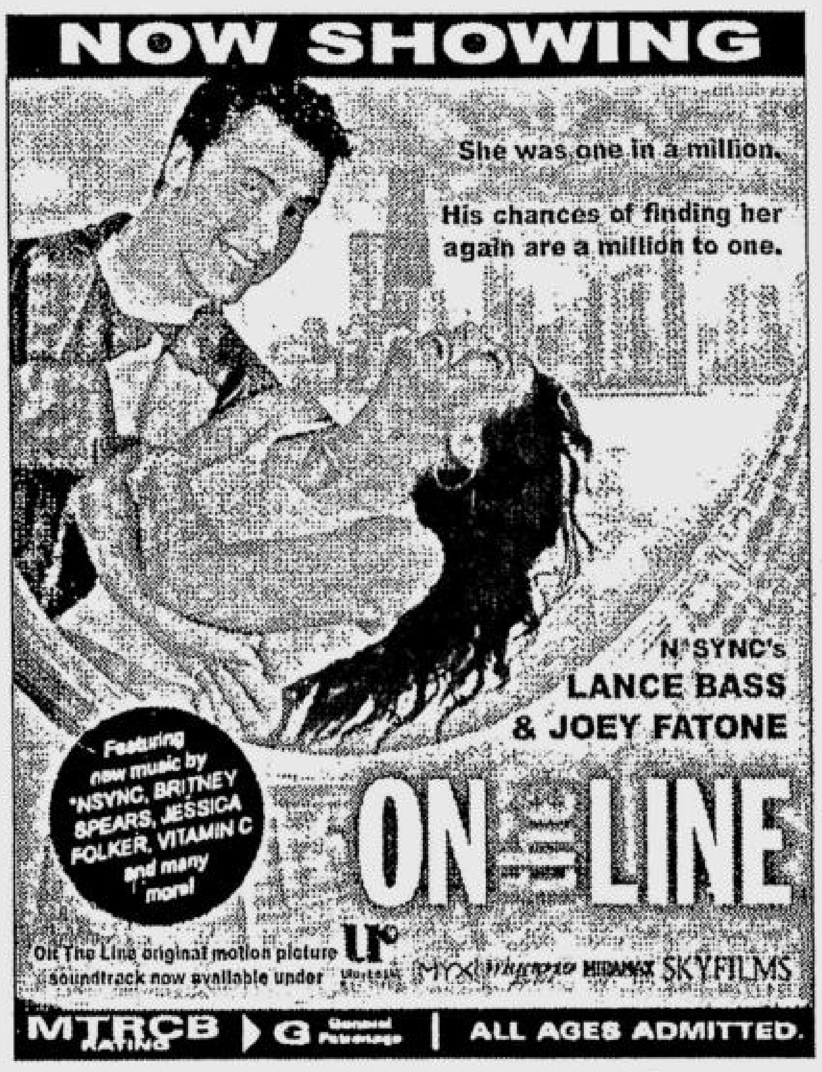
OWEN WILSON GENE HACKMAN
PREPARE TO CROSS THE LINE
BEHIND ENEMY LINES

MTRCB RATING PG13
Tickets available on
January 07 (Mon)
January 08 (Tue)
SM NORTH EDSA•GUADALUPE•MEGAMALL•CENTERPOINT
MANILA•BACOOR•SOUTHMALL•TUTUBAN•FAIRVIEW•SUCAT

OPENS TOMORROW

It's not how you play the GAME...
Robert REDFORD
One agent must outwit the entire CIA to save his friend from execution within 24 hours
SPY GAME
It's how the Game Plays you.
Brad PITT
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

NOW SHOWING



She was one in a million.
His chances of finding her again are a million to one.
N'SYNC's
LANCE BASS
& JOEY FATONE
Featuring new music by *NSYNC, BRITNEY SPEARS, JESSICA FOLKER, VITAMIN C and many more!
ON THE LINE
On The Line original motion picture soundtrack now available under
SKYFILMS
MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED.

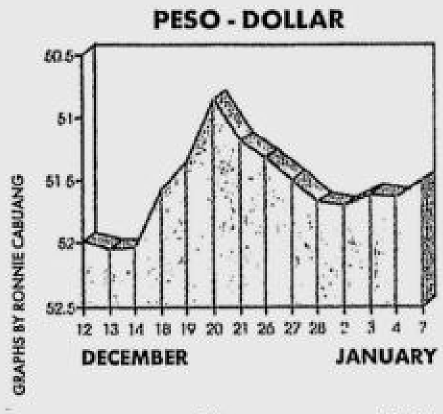
BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ CORRIE S. NARISMA, Assistant Editor

DELL™
Latitude C400
Ultra Mobile
Call us today to speak with an expert about the notebook that's right for you.
INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC. (ICS)
Tel. 727-3801 Website: www.ics.com.ph

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱ 51.50 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 7, 2002

¥ 130.74 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
Jan. 7, 2002

GOLD:$278.20/278.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Jan. 7, 2002

STOCK MARKET

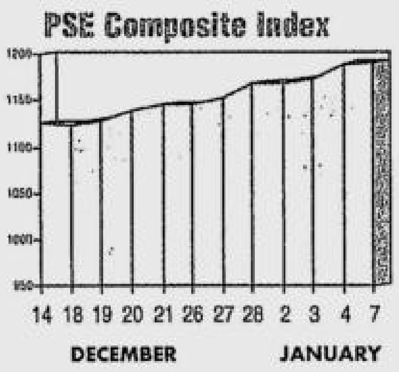
Shares rise 0.2%

SHARE prices rose 0.2 percent yesterday as local investors picked up select blue chips amid hopes of a further central bank interest rate cut, brokers said.

"The market still has an upward bias specially since there has been positive news flow," said Gene Gabriel of DBS Vickers Securities.

"Inflation in December is

SHARES/ B2



(See stock market report on Page B2)

91-day T-bill rate falls to 15-year low

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

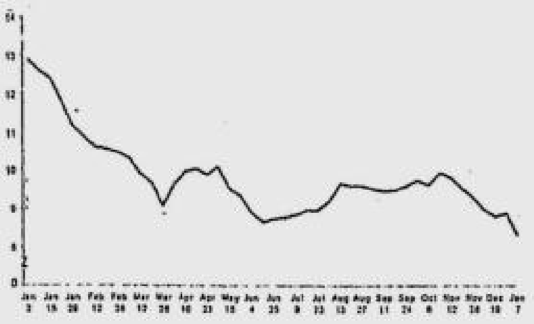
THE GOVERNMENT'S borrowing rate as reflected by the benchmark 91-day treasury bill dropped to its lowest in 15 years to 8.297 percent after shedding 57.6 basis points during yesterday's first auction for 2002.

The 91-day rate fell close to its level on Jan. 23, 1987, when the rate averaged at 7.892 percent.

The yield of the longer-dated debt notes also declined by 70 basis points to 10.081 percent for the 364-day instruments, the lowest level in 2-1/2 years.

Of the P26 billion in funds that were freed in mid-December following a two-percentage-point cut in the bank reserve requirement to 18 percent, close to P17 billion were offered by banks in yesterday's auction but only P4.4 billion were accepted.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government's borrowing rate should decline further and inch closer to the central bank's overnight borrowing rate of 7.75 percent in the coming weeks.



"There is so much liquidity chasing the government securities this week since a lot of the liquidity reserves freed up from the central bank had matured last week," Edeza said.

With very limited investment opportunities, banks chose to park their funds with the risk-free government securities as businesses and individuals still shied away from availing themselves of credit from banks given a yet uncertain economic prospects this year.

Edeza said the fixed-income market has yet to discount even the two-percentage-point reduction in the bank reserve requirement effective last month.

He said the plan of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to cut its overnight rates further by 25 to 50 basis points alongside another two-percentage-point reduction in bank reserves has yet to be factored in by the market in its bids.

"There are some more room for treasury rates to fall given the amount of liquidity in the system. While there could be a technical correction in the future because the yields went down too fast, we would see some more reduction before we see a technical correction," Edeza said.

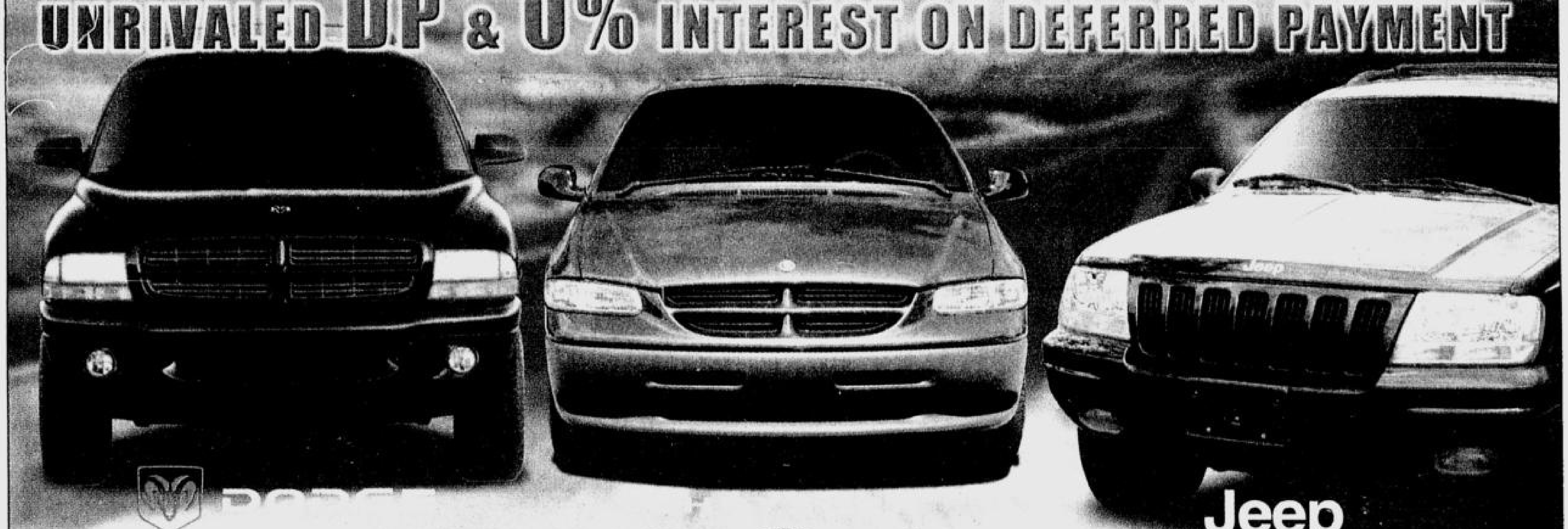
The government raised P4.4 billion from yesterday's auction as it gave a full award of P1.5 billion to the three- and six-month treasuries and awarded P1.4 billion to the one-year debt notes.

The P400 million in excess of the P1-billion volume for the 364-day treasuries was accepted due to huge tenders at very cheap rates, Edeza explained.

The significant drop in treasury bill rates yesterday was another signal of a returning confidence of investors in the government.

After having tamed the budget deficit to

91-DAY/ B2


CHRYSLER Choose to be Different.
PRIMUS
Finance and Leasing, Inc.

GRAND ADVANTAGE
UNRIVALED D.P & 0% INTEREST ON DEFERRED PAYMENT

DODGE
The All New
Dodge Durango 4x4

The All New Grand Voyager

Jeep
There's Only One.
The All New Jeep Grand Cherokee

Model:	SRP	Down Payment	4 Months	1st Payment	4 Months	2nd Payment	4 Months	Last Payment
Jeep Grand Cherokee	₱ 3.2M	800,000	OBLIGATION FREE	800,000	OBLIGATION FREE	800,000	OBLIGATION FREE	800,000
Dodge Durango 4x4	2.7M	675,000		675,000		675,000		675,000
Grand Voyager	1.7M	425,000		425,000		425,000		425,000

* Promo Valid in Greater Manila Only.
Promo Period: December 19, 2001 to February 28, 2002 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2103 Series of 2001

Officially distributed by: NORKIS AUTOMOTIVE RESOURCES CORPORATION
Visit or call our Chrysler showrooms now and get your special and unmatched financing assistance.

Chrysler Mandaluyong
503 Boni Ave. cor San Rafael St.,
Mandaluyong City
TEL: 531-9075 to 79; 534-1992
FAX: 532-3398

Chrysler Quezon Avenue
1144 Quezon Avenue,
Quezon City
TEL: 411-2720/ 374-3911
FAX: 411-2721

Chrysler EDSA
449 EDSA Guadalupe,
Makati City
TEL: 882-1430; 882-6455;
531-0945; 531-4931
loc 249/ 270/ 271
FAX: 531-6707

Chrysler Cebu
A.S. Fortuna St.,
Mandaue City
TEL: (032) 345-6919 to 20
FAX: (032) 345-6910

Chrysler Ilo-Ilo
Mc Arthur Highway,
Tabuc-Suba Jaro,
Ilo-Ilo City
TEL: (033) 329-7793
(033)329-7794

Chrysler Davao
BM Sterling Motor Corp.
Km. 7 Lanang,
Davao City
TEL: (082) 300-2501
FAX: (082) 234-1031

Chrysler Bacolod
c/o TRANSCOR MOTOR CORP.
Araneta St., Singcang,
Bacolod City
TEL: (034) 435-0222 to 24
FAX: (034) 433-0330

Chrysler Tarlac
National Road,
Paniqui, Tarlac

Parts and Service
Mopar
PARTS

Samahang Seaoil. Maging kabalikat.

Inaanyayahan ka ng SEAOIL-tuparin ang iyong mga pangarap! Maging bahagi ng lumalaking pamilya ng mga SEAOIL dealers at lumalawak na distribution network nito.

Ang lahat ng dealers ng SEAOIL ay kaisa sa pagsalubong sa iyo na naghahangad ring sumama sa aming "Seaoil dream and mission." Layunin naming maibahagi ang mithiing makapagbigay sa Pilipinong motorista ng produktong petrolyo ayon sa pinakamataas na pamantayan. Tanging high standard na SEAOIL fuel products lamang, wala nang kung ano-ano pa! Ito ang lumalaganap na pagkilala sa SEAOIL na gusto ng mga motorista. Sa SEAOIL, tiyak ang asenso ng iyong kabuhayan.

Kalidad na global, sa presyong local. Iyan ang SEAOIL!

Maging isang Seaoil dealer.
Tumawag sa 7224871 / 7230850 / 7252383 • Fax 7252395 / 7249996

SEAOIL

The weakest blink

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

DON'T believe the text messages. Whoever started them did not know how to spell. This is actually the year of the horse—not the year of wh . . . well, it rhymes with worse.

The wh...s are those kinds who make young congressmen ecstatic, although I don't know if the horse can bring a new kick to the campaign of this Cabinet member.

He is none other than the favorite whipping boy of the powerful Commission on Appointments, Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

Alvarez was one busy Cabinet member in the year of the snake. He had to work hard for his confirmation. He even took the senators to lunch right before Christmas.

But nobody can say if it was all wasted effort. Last month, the commission gave the good secretary another special treatment. It gave him another memorable by-pass.

Thus, with talk of a Cabinet revamp persisting in business, Alvarez may yet get the most votes as this cute administration's weakest link. Goodbye!

* * *

WORD goes around that Alvarez told some newsmen that taipan Lucio Tan should better watch. If Alvarez gets the confirmation, he is going to town against PAL.

The national flag-carrier PAL only has Lucio Tan as its biggest stockholder. Another stockholder is the employer of Alvarez—the government itself.

Apparently, Alvarez told somebody who then told Lucio Tan that Alvarez would make life so miserable for PAL, the airline would wish it was dead a long time ago.

Now Lucio Tan is not without friends in Congress. I'm sure that, with all his billions of pesos, the taipan helped some politicians one way or another. Alright, many ways!

Within the camp of Alvarez, they thought Lucio Tan was behind the lobby against the confirmation of Alvarez. This was obvious in their media campaign.

Now Alvarez is threatening the taipan. Do you think Lucio Tan wants to earn the reputation as the weakest guy in Chinatown, if he blinks in this confrontation? So let's play the weakest blink!

* * *

ANYWAY, that Lucio Tan would bother his friends just to fight the confirmation of Alvarez was doubtful, well, at least in the beginning, before Alvarez drew first blood.

Even filthy rich guys like Lucio Tan have their own reputation to protect. But if he takes the Alvarez threat sitting down, what can happen to him?

Well, as the story of his life goes, Lucio Tan can easily become the target of every dime-a-dozen political lackey from here to Basilan and back.

Alvarez drew first blood with PAL. While it's like Divisoria at the Naia during this balikbayan season, PAL is not making good money. All thanks to Alvarez!

PAL could not cash in on the heavy passengers traffic during the holidays. And its all because this cute administration gave away air rights to Korean airlines.

The boys of Lucio Tan think that's not exactly the way to run a multibillion-peso business. Will Lucio Tan call up his friends in Congress? This is getting more interesting.

* * *

AND such perfect timing by Alvarez! Just when Filipino overseas were coming home, the government gave the Korean airlines more landing rights here. It was no accident.

The Korean airlines of course were only too happy to steal a lot of the balikbayan business from PAL. The best time to do it was during the holidays.

As usual, Alvarez used tourism to justify his insistence to give landing rights to Korean airlines in such a hurry that he could not wait until after the Christmas season.

For that, he even got an executive order from the Palace. The order made him chair of the Philippine panel in the talks with the Korean government.

Normally, the Civil Aeronautics Board, or the CAB, should take care of the negotiations. Alvarez did not see any reason to use CAB's technical expertise.

Moreover, since it involved relations with a foreign government, the Department of Foreign Affairs normally took part in any air right negotiation.

I don't know why Alvarez snubbed the DFA. It's not known if he had something against Vice President Teofisto Guingona, concurrently the foreign affairs secretary.

* * *

THIS time, in the talks to give away more landing rights to Korean airlines, Alvarez had himself designated by the Palace as chair of the negotiating panel.

Without much ado, he then delegated such an important function to some greenhorn officials in his department. Well, he was busy lobbying for his confirmation.

In business, they are wondering why Alvarez could not simply delegate the job to the CAB, which has years of experience in similar negotiations. Gosh, that's all CAB did.

There must have been something to it. What it was may finally get clear now that the Korean connection of Alvarez is backfiring. He made some bigshots unhappy.

You see, PAL is under rehabilitation. It has bigtime creditors, both here and abroad, to please. They are crying foul in the high places of government.

For if this cute administration cannot help the airline regain financial help, that's well and good. But why must it even do everything to lead the airline to bankruptcy?

* * *

IN the aftermath of the "911" event in New York, airlines all over the world are bleeding. PAL is no exception. Last figure I heard was P3 billion in losses in four months.

Thus, to prevent their closures, governments all over world gave their airlines outright cash assistance. Real, honest-to-goodness cash!

Airlines in Asia like Cathay Pacific, Japan Airlines and even Korean Airline got hundreds of millions of dollars in cash from their governments. And what did PAL get?

Well, the Palace waived the landing fees for local airlines in the next six months. That means PAL will save something like an amazing P50 million.

I am not kidding. That was our response to the crisis gripping the airline business all over the world. As they say, it's not easy being poor.

But did PAL need that rawest of raw deals it got from Alvarez? You know what? Alvarez is even telling everybody that he was only getting orders from somebody else.

What do you do to guys like him? I mean, who can that "somebody else" be other than Glorietta? Or maybe somebody else has authority over him.

Entry of Lehman, Cerberus seen to boost investor confidence in RP

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is optimistic that the strong interest of major foreign financiers to swoop up the bad loans of Philippine banks would boost lending to cash-starved local industries.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said that the foreign financiers were likely to look into the imperiled industrial loans held by banks among their non-performing assets.

Roxas said that by taking the bad loans out of the banks' portfolio, local lenders could free up more funds for relending to the industrial sector.

"The interest of investment firms such as Lehman Brothers and Cerberus Ltd. in the country is a tremendous boost to investor confidence in the country but it will also have direct impact on improving liquidity in the system," Roxas said.

Lehman had committed to invest $1 billion in the Philippines such as the acquisition of banks' bad loans and government's housing loans while Cerberus has forged a $1.5-billion memorandum of agreement for a similar investment package.

Roxas said that even if only 10 percent of these commitments were poured into bad loans in the industrial sector, it would go a long way in providing cash for a number of small and medium enterprises hungry for loans.

Since the 1997 financial crisis left the Philippine banking landscape littered with bad loans, corporate lending has been on a declining trend. While interest rates are now lower than their pre-crisis level, banks chose to be prudent and have kept their checkbooks closed to businessmen applying for loans.

The Federation of Philippine Industries had petitioned the government for the creation of a rescue fund for distressed but still viable manufacturing industries. The FPI blamed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' "ultraconservative strategy" which has forced banks to become "more stringent and conservative in granting loans" and more reluctant to take chances.

The BSP had to undertake these tight measures considering that the bad loans of the entire banking sector has reached 18.8 percent or P281 billion of its total loan portfolio.

Release of ₱50M to ASB unsecured creditors opposed

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. yesterday opposed the release of P50 million in funds to unsecured creditors of the ASB group of companies.

In a motion filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Metrobank said that the planned distribution of the P50 million to unsecured creditors would violate the terms of the SEC's own order approving ASB's rehabilitation plan.

The plan provides that excess funds from the release of creditor-banks' mortgages on ASB property and the sale of other assets should be placed in an asset pool that would fund the completion of unfinished ASB projects.

Earlier, ASB asked the SEC to distribute P50 million, out of the P200 million raised from the sale of its shares in DBS Bank Phils., to the unsecured creditors "in the spirit of the Christmas holidays."

"The Christmas holidays officially ended last Jan. 6, 2002. The factual basis of the motion, therefore, has ceased to exist," Metrobank said, adding that there was no legal ground to grant the request.

Metrobank, the country's largest bank and one of ASB's biggest creditors, noted that allowing the advance distribution of the P50 million in funds to unsecured creditors would lead to an absurd and anomalous situation where the unsecured creditors—whose claims were subordinate to secured creditors—would enjoy preference in the distribution of assets of ASB.

In view of this, Metrobank asked the SEC to deny the request of ASB.

DOTC allows Lavalin to begin work on LRT extension project

BY ABIGAIL L. HO

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications and Canadian firm SNC Lavalin Inc. have signed an agreement allowing SNC Lavalin to begin work on a $597-million project to extend southward the Baclaran-Monumento Light Rail Transit line to Bacoor, Cavite.

In a news briefing yesterday, Transportation Undersecretary Wilfredo Trinidad said SNC Lavalin could now start construction work on a 12-kilometer railway running from the Baclaran, Parañaque station of the existing LRT line 1 to Bacoor, Cavite.

Trinidad disclosed that SNC Lavalin had been talking to its creditors since the joint-venture agreement for the project was signed early last year, but there had been no confirmations yet on the funding.

"SNC Lavalin would now have to push for financial closure. They will have to get equity and loans. This would take around eight to 12 months," he told reporters.

Trinidad said the signing of an agreement with the government should hasten the conclusion of SNC Lavalin's acquisition of funds from its creditors.

"It's more firm now because of the signing of the implementation agreement," he added.

While awaiting the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee approval of the joint venture agreement, Trinidad said SNC Lavalin had already done some "advanced works" on the project.

"They've already done some right-of-way procurements and the like," he said.

The LRT 1 south extension project is part of the government's efforts to modernize the country's railway systems.

In an earlier interview, LRT Administration chief Teodoro Cruz Jr. said the LRT 1 south extension project from Baclaran to Bacoor would later be extended to Imus and Dasmariñas towns also in Cavite.

He added that this extension was targeted to be operational by 2004.

The LRTA is currently trying to expand LRT line 1's capacity from 27,000 passengers an hour to 40,000 an hour per direction.

The P8.8-billion project involves the acquisition of 12 air-conditioned, four-car trains, as well as the acquisition and installation of air-conditioning units for LRTA's old 63-car fleet.

Funding for this came from a Japan Bank for International Cooperation loan and some government counterpart funds.

PYRAMIDING OPERATIONS

G. Cosmos ordered closed

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday ordered the closure of G. Cosmos for its alleged involvement in pyramiding operations or selling of unregistered securities. The company was also slapped a fine of P57.18 million by the commission.

In its permanent cease and desist order, the SEC told the company to stop from further engaging in activities of selling, offering for sale or distributing securities. Specifically, the SEC said G. Cosmos should discontinue its "entry activities," involving the solicitation and acceptance of advertising fees from members in return for shares in the company's profits.

The SEC also directed G. Cosmos, chaired by Japanese Genta Ogami, to immediately remit the returns due to its members.

Ogami has reportedly been involved in a mail-fraud case in Japan. He was also said to have led the acquisition of Unitrust Bank last year.

Last Friday, Unitrust declared a bank holiday and the Monetary Board, the policy-making body of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, closed the small thrift bank and placed it under the receivership of state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Sources said the mass resignation of Unitrust officers amid an ownership dispute between Ogami and some of his partners triggered a run that cost the bank over P100 million or roughly half of the bank's deposits.

In line with its CDO, the SEC ordered G. Cosmos to submit to the SEC's inspection and surveillance division a list of all its members, their respective investments and the projected returns on their investments within 15 days from receipt of the order.

DISCLOSURES

EMPIRE East Land Holdings Inc. announced the resignation of Evelyn Ng as treasurer of the company. Appointed to replace her was Giovanni Ng.

* * *

RFM Corp. completed its buy-back of 408.77 million common shares owned by **WP Argosy Ltd.** at P2.57 per share.

* * *

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. withdrew P94 million of its initial public offering proceeds from the Bank of the Philippine Islands to fund loans and investments in bonds and securities.

* * *

GUOCO Holdings Inc. confirmed it would sell certain non-core assets to restructure its debt and generate working capital for operating subsidiaries.

* * *

BALABAC Resources & Holdings Co. Inc. noted that although its share price rose by 50 percent from P0.13 to P0.195 per share, only 120,000 shares were traded for an aggregate amount of about P22,800.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, January 7, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	58.5	59	441,500
Citystate Savings Bank	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	16,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	26.5	26.5	476,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	199	201	199	201	61,130
Philippine National Bank	64	65	64	65	12,100
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	29	27	29	32,300
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	5,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.5	211,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1330	1350	1330	1350	4,900
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1060	1070	1060	1070	520
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24	24	24	24	9,900
Diversified Fin. Network	4.75	4.75	4.7	4.7	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	2,360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	680	680	675	675	63,450
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	7,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	26,000,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	425	437.5	425	432.5	138,080
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	41,900,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	23	23.25	23	23	13,700
Manila Electric Co. B	34	34	33.5	33.5	623,800
Petron Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.5	1.5	4,592,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.2	2.55	2.2	2.48	10,920,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	60,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	210,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24	24	23.75	23.75	1,200
RFM Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.24	2.24	500,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43	43	43	65,600
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54	53.5	54	602,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.7	4.7	13,410,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.58	1.54	1.58	235,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.83	0.87	0.83	0.87	1,110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	150,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	122,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.63	0.64	4,230,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.84	0.87	0.84	0.86	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26	26.5	26	26	8,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	260,000
Ionics Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	10,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	68,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.7	9,610,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,960,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.225	0.225	36,650,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	940,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.2	4.2	23,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.34	0.36	0.34	0.36	30,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.31	370,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.31	0.31	140,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	49,800
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	2,500,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.47	0.47	420,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) A	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	841,400
Equitable Pci Bank-War E	1.88	1.94	1.88	1.9	423,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb T	10	10	10	10	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants W	0.005	0.0055	0.0048	0.005	210,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.1	5.2	5	5.2	16,838,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	910,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	5,290,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	110,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.76	3,799,000
SM Development Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	630,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	8,534,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	3,500,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	220,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	440,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	12,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.21	0.23	0.2	0.23	510,000

CURRENCIES

Jan. 07, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.117069	1.000000	51.6030
Japan	Yen	0.008536	0.007641	0.3943
United Kingdom	Pound	1.616175	1.446800	74.6592
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.143398	0.128370	6.6243
Switzerland	Franc	0.676110	0.605254	31.2329
Canada	Dollar	0.700225	0.626841	32.3469
Singapore	Dollar	0.606115	0.542594	27.9995
Australia	Dollar	0.579092	0.518403	26.7512
Bahrain	Dinar	2.963205	2.652661	136.8853
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.297885	0.266667	13.7608
Brunei	Dollar	0.602746	0.539578	27.8438
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000107	0.000096	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025440	0.022774	1.1752
UAE	Dirham	0.304212	0.272331	14.0531
Korea	Won	0.000860	0.000770	0.0397
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.895200	46.1950
Brazil	Real	0.485683	0.434783	22.4361
Denmark	Kroner	0.134228	0.120161	6.2007
India	Rupee	0.023176	0.020747	1.0706
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.293966	0.263158	13.5797
Mexico	New Peso	0.121871	0.109099	5.6298
New Zealand	Dollar	0.147861	0.042845	2.2109
Norway	Kroner	0.125298	0.112167	5.7882
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018634	0.016681	0.8608
South Africa	Rand	0.092935	0.083195	4.2931
Sweden	Kroner	0.108288	0.096939	5.0023
Syria	Pound	0.024336	0.021786	1.1242
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032007	0.028653	1.4786
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001473	0.001319	0.0681

91-day T-bill . . .

(From page B1)

within a target of P145 billion last year, traders said the market was much more comfortable with the P130-billion deficit target this year.

Edeza said that of the $1.4 billion in foreign financing that the government needed this year, it has already raised $531 million, and another $250 million should come in on Jan. 18 from a 15-year private placement borrowing with Credit Suisse First Boston.

The treasurer said the government was no longer in a hurry to borrow new foreign loans.

Edeza said that by the second quarter of the year, the Treasury might start offering treasury bills only twice a month instead of weekly. "The plan to change the frequency of the T-bill auction was to increase the liquidity in the market, to have an easier and cheaper administration and a better cash management," he explained.

The government would have to consult with the government securities dealers, and once the plan is acceptable, it could start cutting the frequency of the one-year debt notes by the second quarter, followed by six-month treasuries starting in the third quarter, and the benchmark instrument in the fourth quarter.

Shares rise 0.2%

(From page B1)

good news and this should enable the central bank to relax its (policy rates) even more."

Monetary officials earlier said the central bank would trim its overnight rates further this month after the annual rise in consumer prices eased to an 18-month-low 3.9 percent last month.

Monetary officials had trimmed rates by 725 basis points over the past 13 months as the economy slowed.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 2.14 points to close at 1,192.03.

Volume fell to 564 million shares but value rose to P533 million compared with 568 million shares worth P530 million traded on Friday.

Teresa Lee-Jahrling of Tower Securities said: "Activity is confined to local investors, that's why the push we've been waiting for isn't there yet." *AFP*

Argentina devalues, adopts dual forex rate

BUENOS AIRES—Argentina on Sunday devalued its currency 29 percent and adopted a dual exchange rate after Congress granted President Eduardo Duhalde emergency powers to revive the moribund economy.

The government announced the Argentine currency would be floated but that a rate of P1.40 to a dollar would be set for international transactions.

"There will be a fixed official-exchange rate set at P1.40 that will be used for transactions of goods, services and movement of capital," Economy Minister Jorge Remes Lenicov told journalists.

The minister said the set rate eventually would be abolished.

He said International Monetary Fund officials told him that "the best is floating the currency," but that he asked them to accept the dual system "for four to five months."

He also said currency markets, shuttered since Dec. 21, would reopen on Wednesday.

The minister said negotiations with the IMF would start in early February, and confirmed that Argentina would seek between $15 billion and $20 billion in aid from the fund.

He made the announcements immediately after Congress passed a bill ending the decade-old system tying the national currency to the dollar at a one-to-one rate.

The law was adopted only five days after Congress elected Duhalde for a two-year term following the collapse of two governments in December amid violent protests.

The Senate approved the law Sunday afternoon after the Chamber of Deputies passed it earlier in the day.

The legislation grants Duhalde for his entire term of office special powers to restructure the economy, shattered by almost four years of recession.

It has drawn criticism from multinational companies whose earnings could be affected, and from Argentines who stand to lose purchasing power as a result of the change in the currency system.

On Sunday, huge crowds descended on stores, mainly buying big-ticket items, such as washing machines or computers, before the loss of value of the currency.

Banks and other businesses were worried about the effect the measures would have on repayments of loans.

The legislation seeks to cushion the impact on Argentines already hit hard by austerity policies that failed to end recession.

Under the new law, debts of up to $100,000 owed by individuals and small companies would be converted into pesos at a one-to-one rate.

The legislation scraps the system that based utility rates on the value of the dollar and US inflation, and authorizes re-negotiation of contracts with providers.

That measure angered foreign companies that invested in Argentina when state-run enterprises were privatized in the 1990s.

Remes Lenicov said in the coming days the government would hold talks with leaders of the privatized companies. He expressed confidence there would be "solidarity agreements" with European nations, Canada and the United States as well as companies from those countries that invested in Argentina.

The law allows the government to compensate financial institutions affected by the recovery plan, notably by issuing bonds denominated in foreign currency and guaranteed by a new tax on petroleum exports.

The government can also regulate prices of essential goods and services to protect consumers, though officials insisted this would only be done if absolutely necessary.

The government has also said it would maintain caps on bank withdrawals imposed last month but may increase the limit from the current $1,000 a month, officials said.

The withdrawal limits infuriated Argentines, and 30 people died last month during street protests that led to the resignation of President Fernando de la Rua and his successor, Adolfo Rodriguez Saa. Two caretaker presidents also briefly held power.

The new law does not address the government's foreign debt, though Duhalde has made it clear he will maintain a moratorium on servicing the $141-billion public foreign debt. *AFP*

Analysts call Argentine peso plan 'interventionist'

NEW YORK—Argentina's new dual exchange rate may have been the best the country could be expected to produce given its severe social and economic crisis, but several Wall Street analysts are united in the view that the new policy will not last long.

They described the new scheme as an "interventionist" throwback to the days when Latin American governments used up their reserves defending unrealistic exchange rates.

"Instead of implementing transparent, market-friendly policies that might bring about a favorable response from the IMF and other official creditors, this Argentine government appears to be embarking on the kind of inward-looking, interventionist policies that have failed in the past," said Matt Ryan, an emerging markets portfolio manager at Boston-based MFS Investment Management, which does not hold Argentine debt.

Argentine Economy Minister Jorge Remes Lenicov on Sunday unveiled an economic plan centered on a devaluation of the peso currency tied at one-to-one to the US dollar for a decade.

The government's policy includes a devaluation to a fixed rate of P1.40 to the greenback. The government said it aimed to float the peso in four or five months and expected a non-official peso to float freely on the market at levels similar to the official peso.

Martin Schubert, chair of the European Inter-American Finance Corp., was more forgiving.

"They had to get off the convertibility system because the country was being bled dry. Tonight, they did the only thing they could do as a stopgap solution," Schubert said. "This is a necessary, temporary evil."

Schubert predicted the government would now work on a more deep-rooted economic package to balance the budget and serve as a basis for new multi-lateral lending.

"What we are seeing is a throwback to old-style Latin American economics," Schubert said. "A multiple exchange rate system will not be condoned by the International Monetary Fund but will be accepted as a beginning, leading to a floating rate in a few months."

The emergency economic plan, which comes after a month of cash shortages, bloody rioting and looting that killed 27 and forced the resignation of two presidents, was intended to soften the blow of the devaluation for average Argentines.

"The government is clearly trying to take control of monetary policy but they are taking several steps backward by adopting a more interventionist approach with the dual currency regime," said Lenora Suki, a sovereign strategist at Santander Investment. *Reuters*

Japan vows to work closer with Asean

TOKYO—The Japanese government has decided to propose measures to tighten economic cooperation between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a news report said Monday.

"Specifically, the proposed economic initiatives will be aimed at establishing closer cooperation in the fields of liberalization of investment, the development of information technology and the protection of intellectual property," the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said, citing government sources.

"They will also lead to the eventual signing of a free trade agreement," it said.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi will propose the measures to his counterparts during his tour of five Asean countries, which is set to start Wednesday, the financial daily said.

He will outline the proposal in a speech to be delivered in Singapore on Jan. 14.

"The companies, banks and individuals who owe dollar debt abroad—debt that is unlikely to be redenominated in pesos—are likely to go into default. This will deepen the economic contraction in Argentina," Suki said.

On Sunday, just five days after President Eduardo Duhalde took office, the populist from the Peronist party secured special powers from Congress to make changes that will alter every facet of Latin America's third largest economy.

"It is difficult to think that you can peg, especially under these circumstances, a currency at a specific level for a number of months," said Jim Barrineau, a vice president in emerging markets research at Alliance Capital Management.

"If they have to use foreign reserves to defend the peg, then they may have to float quicker than they would like to and run up against strong inflation," he added. *AFP*

ADB closes pool-based window

MANILA—The Asian Development Bank said Monday that it would close its pool-based US dollar lending facility effective July 1, when ordinary loans would carry interest rates based on the London interbank offered rate (Libor).

Pool-based dollar loans will have an interest rate of 6.69 percent for Jan. 1 to June 30, after which the facility will be withdrawn, the Manila-based lender said in a statement.

The ADB stopped offering multi-currency loans last July.

The bank reduced the rate for the outstanding loans secured from this window by 13 basis points to 5.08 percent for January-July 2002.

The Libor-based facility, which has been available since July last year, offers borrowers more flexibility in the choice of currency and interest rate basis, the bank said.

Borrowers can choose from euros, yen or US dollars with a choice of floating or fixed lending rates consisting of six-month Libor or the fixed-rate equivalent of Libor, plus a spread fixed over the life of the loan.

Based on six-month Libor rates for US dollars of around 1.98 percent per annum as of Dec. 26, 2001, the new ADB product will offer significantly lower interest rates than its current lending rate for pool-based US dollar loans, the bank said. *AFP*

Motorola to lay off workers

HONG KONG—Motorola Semiconductor will lay off almost half of the 1,500 workers at its Hong Kong factory, shifting their functions to plants in Malaysia and China, the company said Monday.

The layoffs, to be done by the end of the year, are part of a restructuring that will refocus the Hong Kong operation mainly on research and development of high value products, said Gloria Shiu, Motorola's senior communications manager for the region.

The work now done by the 700 to 800 workers to be laid off will be transferred to Motorola Semiconductor's plants in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Tianjin, China, she said.

Shiu said the job cuts were also intended to slash costs.

Hong Kong has already lost most of its manufacturing operations to mainland China, where labor and land costs are much lower. The global economic slowdown has prompted more layoffs, recently pushing the unemployment rate to 5.8 percent, the highest level in two years.

Motorola Semiconductors, a wholly owned unit of Schaumburg, Illinois-based cell phone and semiconductor maker Motorola Inc., has been shutting down older plants and investing more heavily in advanced technology lines. *AP*

CLEAN PURE WATER?
EQUIPMENT & CONTAINERS
CALL US & WE'LL
DELIVER
Call us: SHAHUM INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Tels.: 533-0611 • 533-3241 • 535-2264 • Fax: 533-3241
1257-D Cardona St., Rizal Village, Makati City

METRONET
Personal 56k Flat Rate
only P 1,980 per month
Call us: 721-0280
721-0269
721-5091
www.metro.net.ph
com / net / org / biz / info
domains only P800/yr

COPYSTAR OFFICE AUTOMATION
PROVEN HEAVY DUTY COPIER REMANUFACTURED
introducing CLEAR POWDER COPIER
for only P16,000
RICOH FT 3320
RING BINDER P8,000
LAMINATOR P3,800
P2,200 PAPER SHREDDER
SALES: 899-7101 up to 04 / 899-7045 • 899-7075 to 76 • 899-7023
MAIN OFFICE: COPYSTAR Bldg. 948 J.P. Rizal Ave., Makati City • Fax: 895-7802
CEBU OFFICE: 178 Sansiangko St., Cebu City ☎ 255-0504 • 256-3368 to 69
PAMPANGA: McArthur Hi-way, Dolores San. Fdo., Pampanga ☎ 963-5055 to 58 • Fax: 963-5059

COUNTRY SHARES
As of January 8, 2002

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1.4M/1.45M	1,500,000*
BAGUIO COUNTRY	730,000	740,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	750,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	120,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	620,000**	350,000/450,000*/700,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000/150,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	180,000	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	Please call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	280,000	300,000/350,000*
MANILA GOLF CLUB CORP. IND.	-	14,000,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	2,700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	680,000
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	125,000/145,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	-	240,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C**/B*	600,000**	625,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000**	230,000/425,000**
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	-	145,000/Please call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	200,000*/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	500,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**	-	110,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	230,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	-	1,650,000
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	-	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	-	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLAND CC/GOLF	370,000	375,000/750,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650,000	675,000
VALLEY VERDE IND.	170,000	185,000
WACK WACK	6,000,000	6,500,000

Available Lessors for Playing Rights: Alabang, Calatagan, Camp John Hay, Canlubang, Canyon Woods, Celebrity, Eagleridge, Eastridge, Forest Hills, Makati Sports, Malarayat, Orchard, Rivera, Sta. Elena, Southwoods, Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands, Valley Golf, Wack Wack, Rockwell and Others
Need Lessor: Manila Golf Below P300,000 and Tat Filipinas Golf
Selling: Villas, Belleview, Pinecrest and Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands
Lots: Eagleridge, Forest Hills, Punta Fuego, Royale Tagaytay and Southwoods
Buying: Orchard Lot Phase 7
Please Call Tel. Nos. 853-1626/27; Globe 0917-6988275 or 0917-6140856

"Svenson Brought Back The Fullness Of My Crowning Glory!"
Loren BEFORE Svenson
Loren with new, natural hair from Svenson
Loren Dacanay
Branch Manager,
Phoenix Educational Systems

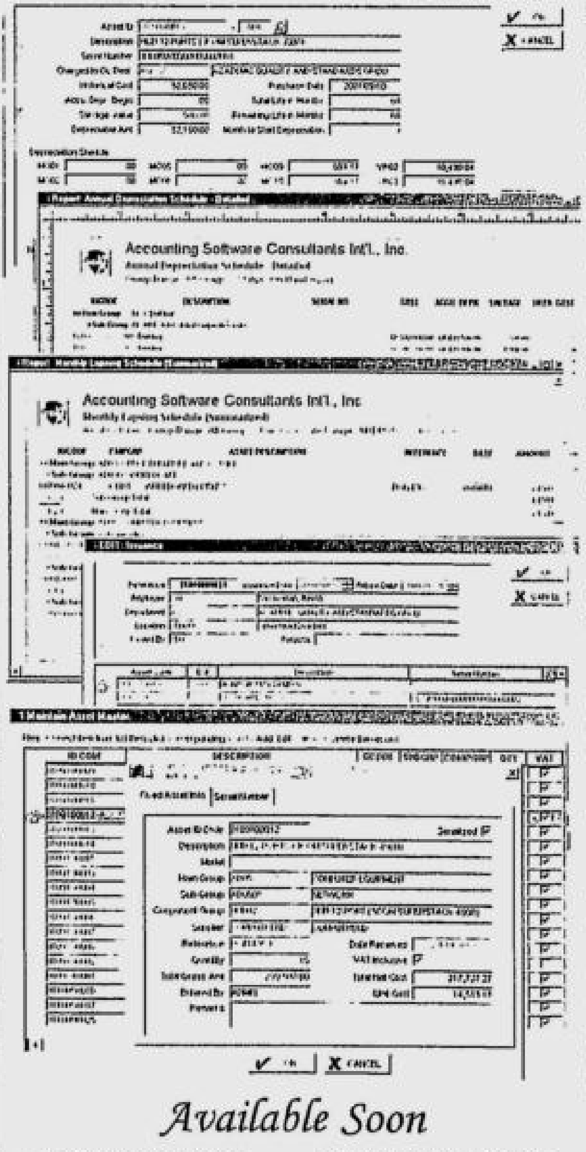
"Because of my thinning hair, I would always get a perm to make it look fuller. However, it became even worse because I permed it too frequently. I envied other people with thick hair and the styles they could do with it. I decided to go to **Svenson** to improve my hair's condition.

"The consultant suggested that I use **Non-Surgical Hair Integration Method.** I was convinced by how natural it looked! In fact, if I didn't have any thinning problems, my real hair would have the same thick look as what I have now. Those who've seen me before now say that I look younger. It was so real, even my relatives couldn't tell the difference between my real hair and the new one. **Thanks to Svenson, I've got my crowning glory back!"**

Women at Svenson

MAKATI	QUEZON CITY	BINONDO	ALABANG	CEBU
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	Cedar Executive Bldg., Timog Avenue	Federal Tower Bldg., Dasmariñas St.	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg., Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Keppel Centre, Cebu City
817-2260 817-2194	372-6631 372-6632	243-0128 244-8913	842-1389 842-4181	032-2340851 032-2340853

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)



COMPETITION IS THE INCENTIVE TO BE BETTER...
Fixed Asset System
SQL - Windows

Reports Available
- Asset Listing (Summarized, Detailed, Unissued)
- Depreciation Schedule (Monthly / Annual) / (Detailed / Summarized)
- Monthly Lapsing Schedule (Summarized, Detailed)
- Asset Accountability (Employee/Department/Location)
- Depreciation Charges (Employee/Department/Location)
- Asset Repair Listing/Historical Card
- Transaction Register (Receipts/Purchases, Issuance, Returns and Sales/Disposal)
- List of Fully Depreciated Assets
- Asset Valuation Report
- List of Assets Disposed
- Net Book Value Report

General Features
- Simultaneous operation of Fixed Asset System (LAN) in several PC terminals such as transaction data entry, generation of reports, master file build-up, inquiry, and other system activities.
- Access rights and security modules limits access and generate audit trail of the users activities.
- Reports are viewed on screen, allow you to expand the window display to full screen size, range print and save to file or send to printer.
- With employee, department, and location accountability tracking.
- Produce extensive reports on a real-time basis such as Asset Listing, Depreciation Schedule, Employee/Department/Location Accountability, which are necessary in decision-making, and are very useful for audit purposes.
- Supports asset serialization and with options to use bar coding system.
- Complete with dropdown tables to ease Fixed Asset System operation.
- All reports can be saved on most common file formats such as Excel, Lotus 123, html, Word, SQL, etc.
- Complete with System Utilities such as: • Install/Setup • Year-End Process • Change Depreciation • Schedule Status • Change the Month Text • Change Asset Code • Password • Users • GL Dept. Charging • Reference Format
- Uses Straight-Line Method of Depreciation.
- Provides a Listing window in every module in order for the user to get a glance on all records for every master file and transaction data in the system.
- Search option for assets on all modules (with serial details)
- System-generated reference codes / numbers.
- Client-Server Application.

Also Available
• Dept'l. General Ledger System SQL Windows • Dept'l. General Ledger System v.6.3 • Simplified Payroll System v.W6.2 • Simplified Payroll System v.6.3 • Accounts Receivable System v.5.0 • Accounts Payable System v.5.0 • Fixed Assets System version 2.0 • Inventory Management - Usage System version 5.0 • Inventory Management & Control System version 5.0 *(Integrated System of Inventory, Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable)* • Marketplace Manager System v.6.0-Ent. *(Integrated System of Billing and Sales, AR and Warehousing Module)* • Marketplace Manager System v.6.0-Prof. *(Integrated System of Sales Invoicing, AR and Warehousing Module)*

Available Soon
- Accounts Receivable for SQL Windows
- Payroll for SQL Windows
- Inventory for SQL Windows

SYBASE Products also available...

ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE CONSULTANTS INT'L., INC.
Web Page Address :
http://www.acctgsoft.com

MAIN OFFICE :
Suite 809, Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
☎ (632) 634-4785 / 634-4795 / 634-5449 / 635-7628 / 638-7026
(632) 635-7852
info@acctgsoft.com
Text: (0919) 571-5342

USA BRANCH:
27819 N. Springtree Place
Valencia, CA 91354
☎ (661) 263-1641 / 263-1642
(661) 263-8615
info@acctgsoft.com

Your Partner in Professional Service

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATES
P230 per column centimeter P65 per line
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

Cosmetic Surgery
50% Discount
Nose Breast Facelift
Eyebag/Slit Hair Transplant
Ear Repair Lipo
Tel.# 723-2223 • 724-8963
Hosp. MWF 10am/4pm 533-0685

RAPID Tx VD-STD
SCARS Ex SWEAT ALLERGIES
15 Annapolis, Greenhills
Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Matrinco Bldg. 2178 P. Tamo 8176071

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

Design & Build Hse 7282605

MASSAGE

80%Crng&o.t.c.s.p.a5255827Born

BATCH 2002 GUYS 8129107

BOYZ 2DMX 8348875

H-H-MS Male 7314018

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883

Male 16 Palanan 7320659

Male Caress 534-3358

•New Mabuhay Massage•
Everyday Promo 421-5996

UNWIND M/F Mkt 7520437

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 8312373 Romy

REFLEXOLOGY

BANAWE SPA M&F 7411426

D'Millenium M/F T9347633

Edgar Reflex 7503640 HHS

Edward Reflex 7289285

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

Scorpion Massg 4372542

MISCELLANEOUS

Attention
Professionals and Skilled Workers Immigrate to Canada now FREE qualification assessment send resume via email saia@csi.com.ph for more details Pls Call 638-6707

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAID 411-1953/741-9082

EMP. AGENCY LOW RATE 928-88-62

Good Maid, Yaya & Cook 7570579

GOOD MAIDS 4216053

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

Home Maid Specialist 6604589

Yaya Cook Lava T- 8708799

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT CHEAP 5220956

Lipat Bahay • 824-1227

Lipat Bahay 801-0759
Lipat Bahay 805-4913

LIPAT BAHAY w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

QUEZON CITY

P1.8M
52.96m² QC near ABS-CBN
Call 924-1402 ; 412-5192

HOUSE & LOT

MANILA

3S w/Deck 0919-8297290

NEAR SSH'WAY
SAN ANDRES MANILA
BNewThse/4stry/4br/3tb/grge/maid
P3.035M up 8903461 loc 34

MANDALUYONG

Mand 234m² H&L New 5323936

MARIKINA

2STY 2BR W/Tel 9416373

Good 4 Business LA293 2BR+1TB 0917-5282174

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

MUNTINLUPA

Ayala Alabang 7BR 6TB 41M Neg 0917-5282174

QUEZON CITY

LOYOLA GRAND VILLAS
2sty 5rms 6TB 650m²LA
Vacant lot w/ view avble
929-1832 • 426-5650

RIZAL

Safe of Flood and Faultline
NR ORTIGAS EXT
RIDGMONT Exec Cainta New strong FRENCH 3BR 2c'port Bung nr ent gate Lot:172m² 2.2M 9488240

PROVINCIAL

BAGUIO HS&L RUSH SALE Str H2O quiet neigh nr Assump. Conv. Dir. Buyers Only CALL JEAN 6471083

OTHER AREAS

RUSH!CanyonWoods Btngas 6.5M 0917-8143792

LOT

MANDALUYONG

5000m² Lot & Various Lots In Mand. 534-6610 Jojo

QUEZON CITY

EDSA LOT QC 1600m², 3200m²
MARK 0919-5825646
PONS 0919-3131338

★ FERNDALE QC ★
Ayala Res Lots now available 204-290m² @ P9,500-P12,160
Pay 20%(In 2 mo.)Bal 5 yrs
Mo. Inst. Few Lots Only
w/ Complete Facilities RUSH!
9319117; 9319160 T.Banez

RIZAL

CAINTA 540m² Felix Av Dir Buyer Tess Parayno 7155469

PROVINCIAL

ATTENTION
Manufacturers & Investors
Cavite Light Industrial Park
Ready for Move-In
Php. 1,600.00 /sqm, Along
Maguyam Road, Carmona Cavite
Tel. 635-8108 / 634-2956 Merle

Landing, Pilar Bataan 2,800m² (047) 237-2318 / 237-4054 Totoy

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

LAS PINAS

BFR 1.6M 3BR2TB 8428853

MAKATI

C5 Nr The Fort 988T
10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or
10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
Call 0917-8169849 • 148176984

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MANDALUYONG

Lee Gardens Condo Std 3br Easy Pymnt 534-6610 Jojo

Various Wack² Condo Low Price Call 534-6610 Jojo

Various Mand. Town-hse @ Low Price 534-6610 Jojo

QUEZON CITY

TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M DBO 0917-8143792

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANDALUYONG

ESTEBAN NR EDSA 8212091

HOUSE

PASIG

4BR 4TB w/Garage 725-7777

Valle Verde 5BR 65T 929-9835

OTHER AREAS

Perpetual Village Bicutan 3BR Hse 8500/mo 8371937

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Makati 2-3BR Furnished #882-8196 • 0919-7847640

PASIG

Ortigas 1-2-3BR or Sale #882-8196 • 0919-7847640

SAN JUAN

Grnhills Stud P11T 9299835

ROOM & BOARD

Prof Ldys Mandaluyong Room 718-2301 • 0917-2531521

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

CAR SANGLA • INSTANT!
WHILE -U- WAIT
924-1254 • 925-9121 • 926-4160
We Also Buy Used Cars

REAL EST. LOAN 524-3197

BUSINESS RENTAL

Medical Plaza ofc 40-75m² 4121825 / 09177914366

Jollibee Plaza 80 150sqm Antel Global 4121825

WHOLE 4TH FLR 396 SQM UMC BLDG., 900 U.N. AVE., MLA NR TAFT LRT 521-11-14

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

•96 Grace P210T 330-3315•

•98 H100 265T 927-6597•

KIA

96 Besta 2.2 180T 3303315

•98Besta2.7 252T 9276597•

•98Pregio3.0 320T 9276597•

MERCEDES

•98 MB100D P368T 9276597•

MITSUBISHI

EL '94 P155T neg. 2823818

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

•98Topic 15str 225T 3303325•

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

4x4Trctors P55T 20/40Kva 135T/165T 3672002;3610215

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Bnew Van 8261045 8254058

CAR VANS 413-5383

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

CARS/VANS/BRIDAL 8955627

HiAce;L300;BrdalMB;Vans9296250

IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

StarexMB100HiAce9483535

MB HiAce L3 Urvan 8257135

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS
ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

TOYCO Trans Cars Vans Coaster Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE OR CHARTER
LCT 750 DWT
890-71-94
722-20-44

PETS

•AM COCKER SPANIEL•
2MONTHS PEDIGREE 8160148

CUTE PUG PUPS! 416-3509 252-0406 • 0918-9095263

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL Tel 721-37-36

SPORTING GOODS

B.Table 30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty BNew 8020566 / 8014494

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
CALL 09178142309/7269687

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following Official Receipts have been declared lost:

SD Publications, Inc.
OR# 04030, 04049 and 04050

JTW Corporation
OR# 0448

Please do not honor the above-mentioned Official Receipts when presented.

(PDI--Jan. 8, 2002)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE

TRANSIT MIXERS, CONCRETE PUMPS CEMENT SILOs, TOWER CRANES, MOBILE CRANES, GENSETS, CONST. ELEVATORS, HOISTING MACHINES/ TOWERS CONC. BATCH PLANT, BACKHOE STEEL SCAFFOLDINGS

Call Jho Tel. 723-8408 / 724-6115

WANTED TO BUY

RITZ
FURNITURE / Used Clothing P.Books/ Shoes/ Bags/ Utensils/ Sewing Mach T.V.; REF; Stereo; Piano; Spkr etc.
Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

SALE EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 8958112

Wanted: Yaya/ Hse Maids
Int'l Cook 660-4589

MALE/FEMALE

An Expanding Infant wear accessory company is in immediate need for the following for immediate hiring National Sales Manager, Sales Reps for Metro Manila Dept. Stores, Supermarkets, Convenience Stores, Divisoria. Sales Reps for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao Dept. Stores, Supermarkets Promodizers, Merchandizers for Mens and Childrens Garments #5 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagong Ilog Pasig City Tel 671-3505 Look For Jenny

CARE GIVER T5280730

COMPUTER SUPPORT/ PROGRAMMER AND WEBSITE DESIGNER Needed for full-time work in a well known beach resort in Puerto Galera or Mindoro. Interviews will be scheduled for the 14th of January in Makati City. Call **0917-8398530** for information and scheduled time

•FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING•
Female Cashiers & Male Janitors Call 823-4573/74 8AM to 5PM Monday-Friday

Need 2 good tutors 1-8pm Fixed pay ++ UP grads in Pasig pref. Email resume LETCENTER@hotmail.com

OFC STAFF 9134470 ANNIX

OFC STAFF Rush9134470 Mark

SECRETARY Comp. literate, fax resume w/picture 522-1905

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Chinese Fastfood Stall Loc. at PSE Tektite Bldg. 350T Neg. 635-8179 • 0917-2417918

EARN & TRAVEL 0919-6165084

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Earn 29T/mo from ur monthly bills such as elec water phone etc 453-6562 / 453-6630

Great News! If you are not earning over 200T/mo.@ ur present network bus. Let's Talk Now 807-2359 Resh

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby that the estate of the deceased AGUSTIN LAGUDA SOTTO, of Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, who died on April 24, 2001, has been the subject of an Affidavit of Adjudication executed by his sole heir, Alda Laguda Sotto, in a document executed on November 24, 2001 and notarized by Notary Public Atty. Jose Sta. Ana and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc.No. 128; Page No. 26; Book No. 58; Series of 2001 (PDI-Jan.8,15&22, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that the S2 Lic. #266342 under the Name of Dr. Agustin S. Ladanga was lost. (PDI-1/8/02)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER
TO ST. JUDE

O, HOLY ST. JUDE apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eighth day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted.

A manufacturing and distribution company of international established brands of consumer goods requires a

SALES MANAGER

- Male, not more than 40 years old
- Preferably college or university graduate
- At least 5 years experience in handling sales of consumer products
- Good contacts with key accounts and wholesalers in GMA and the provinces
- With excellent communication skills and able to relate well with all types of people

All interested applicants please send your application letters and resumé by email to admin@eupl.com.sg. You can contact us at 889-1363 and look for Ms. Lhyn Paule.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

NO KA OI (PHILS) INTL. INC. a pest control company based in Ayala Alabang is in need of:

OPERATIONS MANAGER

☑ graduate of any four-year course preferably in Sciences or Management
☑ with strong leadership and can manage to supervise about 30 technicians
☑ can work under pressure without supervision
☑ with good P.R.
☑ willing to work on day and night shift
☑ computer literate
☑ experience in a related position is of advantage
☑ valid driver's license

Qualified applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé to:

The Personnel Department
Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc.
ESL Building, Bonifacio Drive
Anda Circle, Port Area, 1002 Manila
Fax No. 527-3006
E-mail address: eastship@skynet.net

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F, 8A Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City, Philippines
Tel No. (02) 841-0844
Telefax No (02) 810-8418

Brgy. Batangas Dos
Mariveles, Bataan
Tel No. (047) 244-7441
Telefax No (047) 244-5883

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING AS AMENDED

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification/eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : WSC-01-004
II. Project Title : Earthworks and Slope Protection Works of PRII Expansion Area II
III. Scope of Work : Clearing and grubbing to include removal of obstruction, excavation, backfilling, spreading and compaction up to the required elevation, completion of CHB Perimeter Fence enclosure and drainage manholes.
IV. Minimum Equipment Requirement :

Equipment Description	No. of Units
1. Bulldozer, 200-225 HP	3
2. Bulldozer, 300-335 HP	2
3. Payloader, 4 cu. yd. capacity	1
4. Dumptruck, 10-15 cu.m. capacity	12
5. Road Grader, 125 HP	2
6. Vibratory Compactor, Sheeps Foot, 9-10 Tons	3
7. Vibratory Compactor, Smooth Drum, 9-10 Tons	3
8. Water Truck, 10,000 Liters capacity	1

V. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
VI. Approved Budget : Pesos Twenty Seven Million One Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Eight and 10/100 (P27,126,908.10)
VII. Source of Funding : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
VIII. Estimated Contract Duration : One Hundred Thirty Five (135) Calendar Days
IX. PCAB License Minimum Requirement
License Qualifications
Classification : General Engineering
Category : A
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Road, Highway Pavement, Railways, Airport Horizontal Structures and Buildings
Size Range : Medium B
X. Similar Contracts : Land Site Development such as General Earthworks and Slope Protection Works
XI. Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement : Pesos Two Million Seven Hundred Twelve Thousand Six Hundred Ninety and 81/100 (P2,712,690.81)
XII. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P100.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : January 8-21, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statements/ Documents : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before January 28, 2002 at 3:00 p.m.
XIII. Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : January 21 - February 18, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas,Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIV. Pre-bid Conference Date and Time : March 14, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.
Venue : PPDC Conference Room PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
XV. Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P1,000.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : February 21 - March 06, 2002 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department or PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before April 12, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation 11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XVI. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

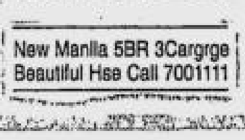
Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Relations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that it may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(PDI -- Jan. 8, 11 & 16, 2002)

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
BAC-Chairman



New Manila 5BR 3Cargrge
Beautiful Hse Call 7001111

Invite 2.8 million people to come inside your house.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
The Widest Read Classifieds

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 50% according to the 1999 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

Get your career off the ground.

JOBMarket ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No. 421-2327; 911-6001 loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HF/SSB TRANSCEIVER, 20 WATTS, MANPACK CONFIGURATION, with an approved budget of Four Hundred Twenty Seven Million, Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty Pesos (Php 427,432,320.00) under the AFP Modernization Program.***

Only bids from entities which make, develop, fabricate, assemble, build or otherwise produce said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **January 8, 2002** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 40,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***January 23, 2002 at 1:00 p.m.*** *(local time) at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of applications for eligibility statements and the bid envelopes is on ***February 21, 2002 at 9:00 a.m.*** *(local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at* ***10:00 a.m.*** *at the Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L ABAYA**
Major General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Jan. 7 & 8, 2002)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax No. 421-2327; 911-6001 loc. 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the ***UPGRADE OF TWO (2) LANDING SHIP TANKS (LSTs)*** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of ***Two Hundred Forty One Million Five Hundred Eighty-Four Thousand Pesos (Php 241,584,000.00)*** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from entities with category "large shipyard" or "medium shipyard" by the MARINA shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting ***January 9, 2002 (Wednesday)*** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on ***January 24, 2002 (Thursday) at 2:00 PM*** *(local time)* at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Prospective bidders are allowed to inspect the two (2) LSTs upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the First Stage envelopes.

Deadline for submission of Eligibility/Bid Documents (First Stage) is on ***March 07, 2002 (Thursday)*** at ***2:00 PM*** (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at ***3:00 PM*** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L ABAYA**
Major General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Jan. 8 & 9, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Baggao
OFFICE OF THE PBAC CHAIRMAN

January 3, 2002

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of Baggao through the Pre-qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), hereby invites interested bidders to pre-qualify and to bid for the Construction of 1-Phase Line to Taytay Bantay and Sitio Lupigan, Nangalinan, Baggao, Cagayan amounting to P1,440,043.38.

Instruction to bidders and pre-qualification documents will be available during office hours, **14-25 January 2002** at the PBAC Secretary upon submission of an Official Letter of Intent and presentation of original PCAB Certificate

All pre-qualification documents submitted shall be properly accomplished, certified and duly notarized, including the requirements as mand[illegible] the Implementing Rules and Regulations of [illegible]594, as amended. The deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents shall be not later than **28 January 2002.**

Qualified contractors shall be notified in writing and corresponding bid documents will be issued upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php [illegible].

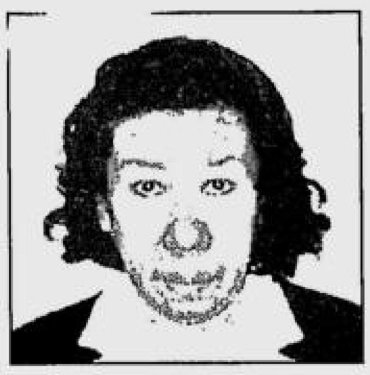
Bidding will be on **12 February 2002**, 10:00 AM at Baggao Town Hall.

LGU-Baggao reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, waived any required formality therein, and to [illegible] and award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **LEONARDO C. PATTUNG, M.D.**
Municipal Mayor / PBAC Chairman

(PDI – Jan. 8 & 21, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT **MARGARITA CHUA SIA**, whose picture appears above, of No. 20 J.C. Coolidge Street corner G. Washington Avenue, Parkwood 1, Greens Executive Village, Bgy. Maybunga, Pasig City or 142 A. Luna Street, Bo. Malinao, Pasig City, is the subject of a **WARRANT OF ARREST** issued by the Presiding Judge of Branch No. 143, Regional Trial Court of Makati City, in connection with the case of Estafa with **'NO BAIL'** docketed as Criminal Case Numbers 01-2709 to 2710.

A SUBSTANTIAL REWARD awaits anyone who shall provide material and vital information that will lead to the arrest of the subject person. Any information leading to her arrest may be communicated to the following numbers: 813-1520 or 892-4702.

Any and all information leading to the arrest of MARGARITA CHUA SIA, including the informant's identity and contact number shall be treated with utmost confidentiality and privacy.

(PDI – Jan. 7 & 8, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID
SLT-2002-01A

The Southern Luzon Transco (SLT), NPC wishes to invite interested parties to prequalify and to bid on the items listed below:

SCHEDULE		ITEM DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
		DATE OF BIDDING: JANUARY 21, 2002; 2:00 PM	
A1	1 LOT	CABLE AND MECHANICAL SEALS	3MAK01-437
A2	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: REPAIR/REHABILITATION OF PAGING SYSTEM AT MBGPP-PLANT A	3MAK01-532
A3	1 LOT	VARIOUS COMPUTER ACCESSORIES	3TIW01-041
A4	200 PCS	CARBON BRUSH, PIGTAIL	3TIW01-045
A5	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: FABRICATION OF 230KV DISCONNECT MANUAL OPERATING MECHANISM PARTS OF DISCONNECT SWITCH	3MAK01-373
		DATE OF BIDDING: JANUARY 22, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1	4 UNITS	AIR CONDITIONING UNIT	3DII-01-147
B2	65 PCS	CONNECTOR, WEDGE TYPE ALUMINUM	3PTG01-062
B3	1 UNIT	VACUUM CLEANER	3PTG01-070
B4	1 LOT	INK CARTRIDGE	3OPO01-014
B5	2 UNITS	LAN TESTER FOR RJ45/RJ11/BNC	3PTG01-044b
B6	1 LOT	MEMORY (256 MB), HARD DISK (18.2 GB)	3PTG01-043
B7	1 UNIT	DESKTOP COMPUTER	PSMD-N01-120
B8	1 LOT	COMPUTER SOFTWARES (WINDOWS 2000, OFFICE XP, WEB MARSHALL, MAIL MARSHALL, SOPHOS ANTIVIRUS)	3PTG01-063
		DATE OF BIDDING: JANUARY 23, 2002; 2:00 PM	
C1	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: REPLACE OF TURBO DIESEL ENGINE 4D56 AND TRANSMISSION FOR MITSUBISHI PAJERO	3ADM01-205
C2	1 LOT	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	3ADM01-197
C3	6 SETS	CATCHER AND HOLDER OF FUSE LINK	3LAG01-209
C4	1 LOT	REPAIR OF DENTAL EQUIPMENT	3ADM01-191
C5	1 PC	HAGEN BATTERIE AG	3NCS01-0111
C6	2 UNITS	BREADBOARD, SOLDERLESS	3NCS01-0129
C7	1 LOT	VEHICLE SPARE PARTS (VARIOUS PRS)	3ADM01-216
C8	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: BODY REPAIR/PAINTING/ELECTRICAL AND UPHOLSTERY OF MITSUBISHI PAJERO	3ADM01-215
C9	1 PC	VEHICLE SPARE PARTS & ACCESSORIES (VARIOUS PRS)	3ADM01-236
		DATE OF BIDDING: JANUARY 24, 2002; 2:00 PM	
D1	12 PCS	BATTERY (2SM, 3SM, 6SM)	3ADM01-242
D2	2 PCS	BINDING MACHINE, PAPER CUTTER	3ADM01-204
D3	1 LOT	ELECTRICAL HARDWARES AND SUPPLIES	3ADM01-235
D4	7 UNITS	AIR CONDITIONING UNIT	3ADM01-177
		DATE OF BIDDING: JANUARY 28, 2002; 2:00 PM	
E1	1 LOT	JOB ORDER: FOR THE SUPPLY OF LABOR MATERIALS, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT FOR LOADING, HAULING & UNLOADING OF 1 UNIT 5MVA POWER TRANSFORMER	3OPO02-001

NOTE: For SCHEDULE E1 - Pre-Bidding Conference will be held on January 21, 2002, 10:00 AM at SLRC Bidding Room

Schedules A1-A5 bidding shall be handled by GENCO-6 Materials Management Section. Bid documents can be obtained from their office at San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Complete sets of bidding documents and other particulars may be obtained from the Office of the Manager, Administration Division, SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of P25.00 and P50.00 per schedule for single and two envelope, respectively starting **January 8, 2002**. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Non-accredited suppliers can get prequalification papers and submit the same for evaluation not later than **January 15, 2002** before they are allowed to bid.

Only those prequalified shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna until 2:00 o'clock PM on the dates specified above after which said bids will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

All bids regardless of price offer must be accompanied by Bidder's Bond in Cash or Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check, or a GSIS Surety Bond equivalent to five percent (5%) of the total bid price.

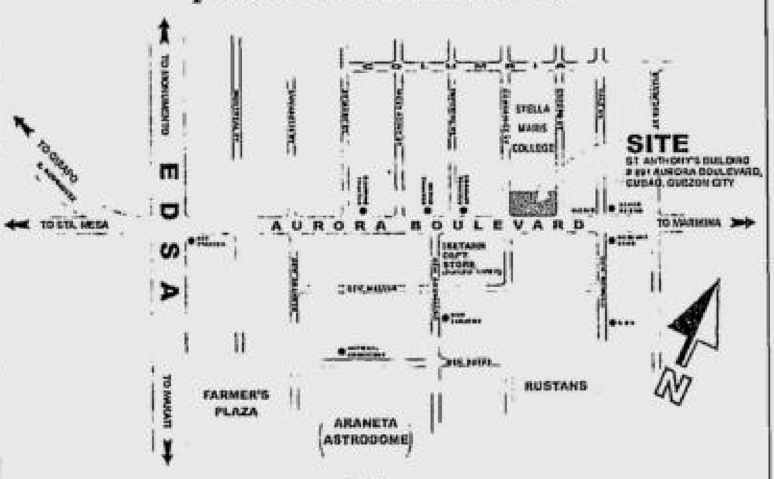
The NPC-SLRC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligations to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the NPC-SLRC's action

(Sgd.) **R.D. RAMAS**
Manager, Administration
Transco South

(PDI -- Jan. 8, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements. For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



LOCAL WATER UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION
P.O. Box 034 U.P. Post Office, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-55-11 to 99; 921-56-01 Fax No. (632) 922-34-34
Administrator's Direct Line: (02) 929-61-07
LWUA E-mail Address: lwua@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO BID

Bids are hereby invited from LWUA-accredited manufacturers/suppliers/distributors/dealers for the supply and delivery of various pipes, fittings, electro-mechanical equipment (including installation) and other water supply materials for various LWUA-assisted projects.

Accredited firms will be notified in writing of the schedule of bidding for the first quarter of year 2002. Bid documents, including specifications for each bidding, will be available two (2) weeks before the scheduled bid opening at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, LWUA Building, Katipunan Road Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN T. RUIZ**
Chairman, BAC 2

(PDI--Jan. 8 & 9, 2002)

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Luzon**

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

[illegible]

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Visayas**

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

Bacolod City
Ms. Elizabeth Verdeflor
Bubbles N' Swirls
Terra Building, La Salle Avenue
Bacolod City
Telefax No. (034) 433-3626
Cell No. (0917) 085-2691

Cebu
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
Tel. No. (032) 232-7618

Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5796/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7452
Fax No. (035) 255-1182

Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 508-2530
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine & Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
Tel. Nos. (036) 262-4155/268-5200

Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines & Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925

Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053)325-6743/321-2954

Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in **Mindanao**

Ake ya tu na INQUIRER. Sirca ya, sulit pa!

Butuan City
Mr. Rolando Busa
R.C. Busa Trading
490 G. Flores Avenue
Butuan City
Tel. Nos. (085)225-3247
(085) 225-3169/341-5082

Cagayan de Oro City
OMNI General Merchandise
Dr. 1 De Leon Building
Pabayo-Pacana Streets
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (08822) 722-530
(088) 856-5253
Grandstar News & Magazines
122 Cruz Taal corner Pabayo Street
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel. Nos. (088) 857-2571/857-1612
Telefax No. (088) 231-3248
E-mail: grandstar@hotmail.com

Cotabato
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Sinsuat Avenue
Cotabato City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
(064) 229-7089 (Lollot - Secretary)

Davao City
Dabaw Periodicals, Inc.
Santos Building, Gov. Duterte Street
Davao City (fronting Galleria Hotel)
Tel. Nos. (082) 226-4406/221-3378/
221-3424/226-2931
Babasahin ATBP.
Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920

General Santos
Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
GSC Newscenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (083) 301-8731/301-6244

Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos. (062) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell. No. (0919) 660-0001

Zamboanga
Mr. James Hao
Marlen's Variety Store
86-88 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-4294/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newsstand
P. Briantes Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 991-2965/990-4016

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tri-Media Study.

Classified Advertising Division
Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8974808
G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6372008 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465
e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

OBITUARIES

RATE
₱230 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Atty. PASTOR SICANGCO DEL ROSARIO

Passed away at the age of 75 to heed God's call to join Him.

His departure has left a great void in our lives. He was loving; he was so loved. His selflessness knew no bounds; what he had he gave freely. Now despite our pain and anguish it's our turn to be selfless as we surrender him back to God.

We his family,

His bereaved wife, **Ching**
His children,
Bing and **Elise**, and their children **Rico**, **Cristine**, and **Franco**
Patty and her children, **Mikey** and **Camille**
Ina and **Meckoy**, and their child **Lorenzo**
Grace and **Paolo**, and their children **Marco** and **Raf**
Terry and **Dino**, and their children **Joshua** and **Isabel**
His sisters, **Baby** and **Emy**
And all his cousins, nieces and nephews, other relatives, and friends request all those whose lives he may have touched to pray for his eternal repose.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen at Sanctuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park where Masses will be offered at 8:00 every evening from January 7 to January 9.

A 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass for family and friends will be offered on Thursday, January 10 at the Sanctuario de San Antonio, to be followed by a Mass and services with his Meralco family at 12 noon at the Meralco Theatre.

Cremation services follow at the Loyola Crematory, Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina.

Our Dearly Beloved

EMILIANO S. MENDOZA, M.D.

of Obando, Bulacan and Sta. Cruz, Laguna

UST Medicine Class of 1957
Former Medical Director, UPLB Health Service
Former Head, CLSU Health Service
Former Head, CMU Health Service

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 6, 2002 at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Nora**; children **Marife**, **Elizabeth** and **Roman**, **Edgar** and **Rose**, **Cielo** and **Alex**, **Sanirose**, **John Derrick** and **Laarni**, and **Marvin & Sherlene**; grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at 5645 Sto. Angel Sur boundary Patimbao, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. (Tel. No. 049-8083161).

Interment will be on Saturday, January 12, 2002 at Garden of Peace Memorial Park, Bagumbayan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

"You will always be in our hearts, Papa Ben"

BIENVENIDO ARTIAGA CRUZ

May 21, 1938 - January 6, 2002
of San Juan, Metro Manila & San Mateo, Rizal

His loving wife **Roseli Cuevas**; children **Mark Anthony & Irish**, **Michael Angelo & Ma. Elisa**, **Marlon Alexandre & Ma. Linda**, **Marie Angelique "Apple" & Allen**; grandchildren **Rica**, **Micah**, **Dani**, **Ram**, **Jethro**, **Megan**, **Marty**, **Nicole**, **Vince & Isa**; brothers and sisters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Shrine, St. Joseph Hall, Doña Juana Rodriguez Street, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 9, 2002 at the Mt. Carmel Shrine [illegible] the 1:30 PM Mass.

GORDON QUA GO

peacefully joined our Lord on 06 January 2002
at the age 54.

His loving wife **Mattie**; children **Gilly**, **Gerome**, **Geffrey & Giselle**; mother **Filomena Qua**; brothers **George**, **Gerry**, **Gary & Greg**; sisters **Gloria** and **Grace**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, relatives and dear friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Cremation will follow after the 11:00 a.m. Mass, Friday at 12:00 nn.

Whoever
finds
his life
will
lose it,
and
whoever
loses
his life
for my
sake
will
find it.
Matthew 10:39

ATANACIA VICTOR-AMONOY

of Taytay Rizal and Pasig City

Peacefully joined our Creator
on January 4, 2002 at the age of 73.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Homes, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 9, 2002, following a Mass at 7:00 a.m. at Tanay, Rizal.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

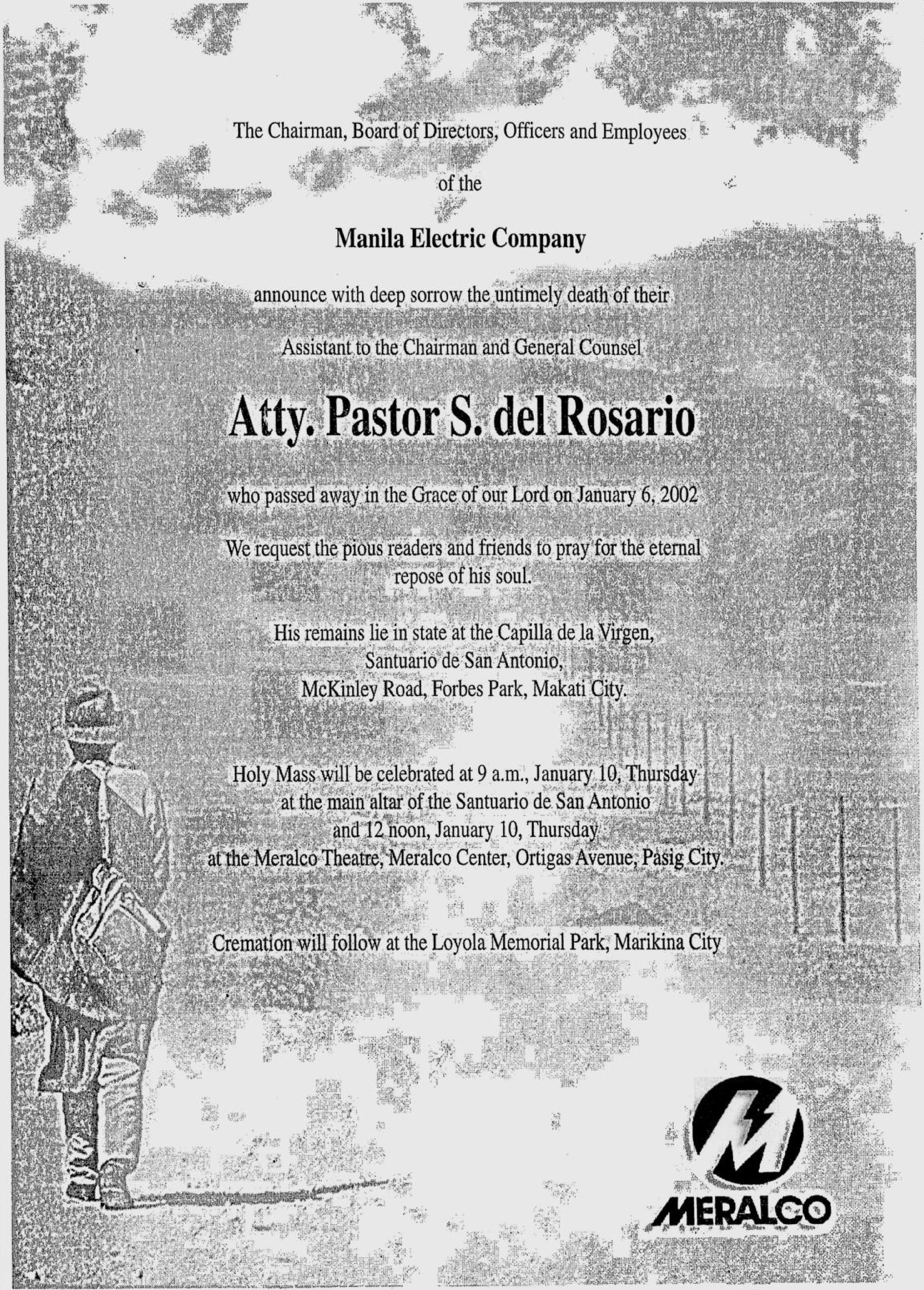
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 14:6



The Chairman, Board of Directors, Officers and Employees

of the

Manila Electric Company

announce with deep sorrow the untimely death of their

Assistant to the Chairman and General Counsel

Atty. Pastor S. del Rosario

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on January 6, 2002

We request the pious readers and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen,
Santuario de San Antonio,
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 9 a.m., January 10, Thursday
at the main altar of the Santuario de San Antonio
and 12 noon, January 10, Thursday
at the Meralco Theatre, Meralco Center, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

Cremation will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City

MERALCO

MARIO TUAZON JACINTO

of Gapan, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined His Creator on January 02, 2002
at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife **FELINA**; children **BETH** and **BERNARD, LITO** and **EMY, LOUIE** and **MALOU, ANDY** and **AHDORE**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brother, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Fatima Sub-Parish Chapel, Ciudad Real Subdivision, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 9, 2002 at the. Sarmiento Memorial Park, SJDM, Bulacan, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

LUCIA "LUCHY" OLIVEROS ALMIRA

DMII Vicariate Regent of Palawan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on December 25, 2001
at the age of 61.

Her loving husband **Roger**, children **Mary Jo** and **Jess**, **Djadjoy** (†), **Linus** and **Jho**, **Felix** and **Carol**, **Rogerlio Jr.**, **Marie**, **Simon**, **Berenice**; grandchildren **Monique**, **Johanna**, **Iñigo**, **Marco**; **Li-Boy**, **Leekit**; **Caleen**; **Mommy Lola** (†), **Lola Inang**; brothers and sisters **Vicky** and **Buddy** (†), **Bert** and **Faelet**, **Cris** and **Ronnie**, **Tessie**, **Girlie** and **Andrew**, **Cely** and **Ver**; nieces and nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal repose.

Interred on January 5, 2002 at Puerto Princesa Memorial Park, San Jose, Puerto Princesa City.

In Loving Memory
on the
Ninth Death Anniversary
of

JOSE MA. L. JAVELLANA

who passed away on January 8, 1993

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio Parish *Forbes Park, Makati*	6:15 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Don [illegible] Parish *[illegible] Road, Makati*	6:30 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m. 6:00 p.m.
Christ the King *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
San Sebastian Cathedral *Bacolod*	7:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Shrine *Bacolod*	6:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Redemptorist Church *Bacolod*	6:15 a.m. 5:30 p.m.

The family requests relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Talk and surf with one phone line: Globelines

A PHONE line is a phone line is a phone line, right? Not if it's a Globelines. With Globelines – the landline service of Globe Telecom – the phone becomes much more than a mouthpiece. Not only does Globelines help manage voice calls (via advanced services like Call Waiting ID and 3-Way Calling) and allow text directly to and from Globe Handyphone users: it also brings you all the Internet in all its glory--with NetExpress.

NetExpress brings you both voice and Internet in one standard home phone line. It's the fast, easy way to the Web: right at home, without the need to buy pre-paid card, the expense of subscribing, the hassle of installing and one more bill to pay every month.

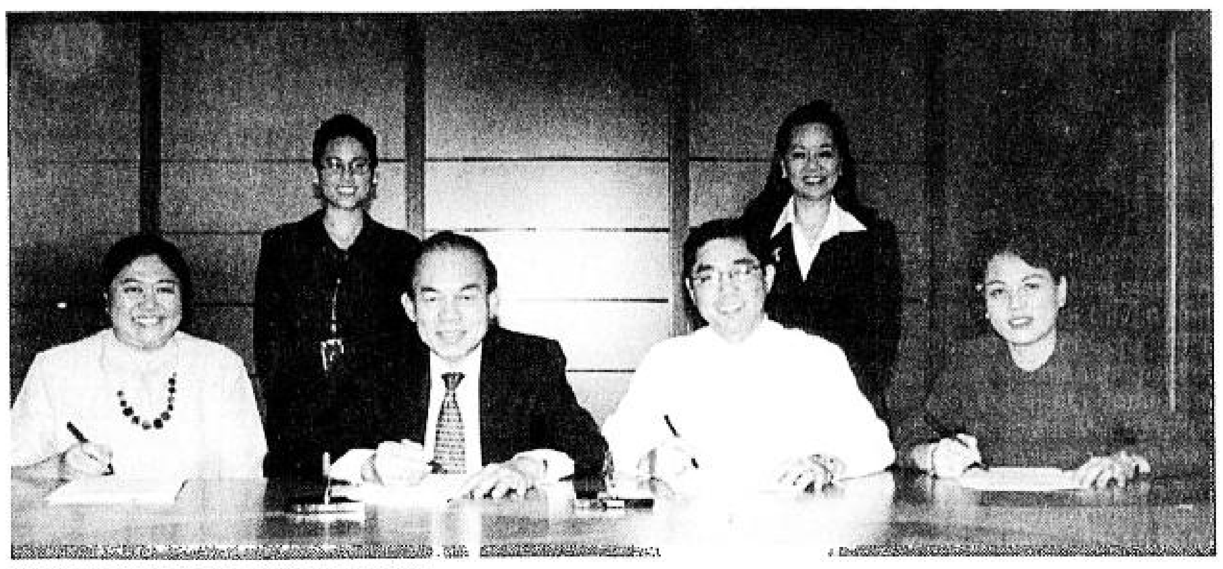
With Globelines, post-paid subscribers can not only talk to friends – but also chat, play online games and swap e-mail, along with surfing, downloading and online shopping. They can even check mail via any one of the free e-mail accounts NetExpress provides.

With NetExpress, Globelines users no longer need a separate ISP to get online. It's even paid for in the same monthly bill: users pay only one bill, not two, as they would with an ISP.

But how much do they pay? NetExpress is cost-effective as well. Rather than a fixed monthly fee, NetExpress charges users only for what they use each month, at an affordable P.50 per minute. That means big savings for Globelines subscribers: no ISP subscription fees, plus no monthly fees for minutes you may not even consume. No usage, no charge.

So how do subscribers apply for NetExpress? They don't – it's already available in every Globelines phone. They can access it anytime, no prior arrangements or even activation required: just hook up your Globelines to your modem, and dial up the NetExpress access number 1-900-908-0000.

With NetExpress giving users such convenient access to the Net, one thing's for sure, whether voice, text and now the Web, with Globelines it's all in here.



PHILAM PLANS SIGNS MOA

Philam Plans recently signed a memorandum of agreement with Philam Savings Bank, appointing the latter as another Philam Plans trustee bank. Philam Savings Bank will be handling the pre-need company's life plan, education and pension trust funds. Signing the agreement are (seated, from left) Philam Plans finance group first vice president Melinda Bustamante, president and CEO Eliseo Dizon Jr., Philam Savings Bank president and CEO Rolando Tanchanco and vice president and trust officer Karen Catibayan. Looking on are (from left) Philam Savings Bank manager and account officer Sol Elizah Tumangan and director Lorenza Carandang.

LEGAL SERVICES ONLINE

Lawyers Carlo Ocampo (right) and Andrew Michael Ong, partners of Ocampo Manalo & Ureta and Ong Bagay-Villamor & Fabiosa, respectively, recently signed a memorandum of agreement as correspondent law firms for Metro Manila and Cebu. The strategic tieup effects a dynamic and active collaboration of two firms representing the best in legal tools and resources for local and multinational firms specializing in transportation and communication, food and beverage, garments and textiles and information technology, among others. Witnessing the signing held at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City are the firms' partners (from right) Ana Liza Bagay-Villamor; Manix Manalo, Jose Maria Clint B. Fabiosa and Chi Famador. They may be reached at www.omulaw.com and www.ovflawyers.com.

US meat export federation sponsors Burgoo trip to Singapore

IN ITS DESIRE to give you only the best food and service possible, Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant doesn't stop at what it has. It has always been on the lookout for advancement and improvement. Burgoo believes that one way of improving is by providing continuous trainings and seminars to its key people here and abroad.

Burgoo's managing director Albert Alavera leads training and seminars and always looks for new gimmicks and fresh ideas for the restaurant. Last year, he was one of the lucky chefs and restaurateurs chosen by the US Mat Export Federation for a free seminar in Singapore titled "US Meat Culinary Workshop". The all-expense paid trip held last Nov. 19 to 23 was another momentous event in Alavera's career as a restaurateur. He swears more exciting menus, better service, new ideas and techniques which Burgoo's faithful guests will surely benefit.

Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant is popular for its Oklahoma-Style Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Grilled Pork Chop, Country-Style Fried Chicken, Lemon-Peppered Griled Lapu-Lapu, Squid ala Pobre, Supreme Pizza, Seafood Fettuccine, Raspberry Cheesecake. Also try its "Four Great Supreme Choices" such as Country-Style Chicken Supreme, Seafood Caesar Supreme, Shrimp Supreme Pizza and Supreme Sampler – all served in huge servings, meant for sharing.

The restaurant opens daily from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., the following day, also boasts of efficient and friendly service, fun-loving atmosphere and charming and elegant ambience.

Visit Burgoo at 310 Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 927-7224 and 927-7384 or at the 3rd Level, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City with telephone numbers 898-1815 to 17.

At Burgoo, it's always a family treat.

SHELL RIMULA LAUNCH DRAWS IN EXECS

Pilipinas Shell Transport marketing manager Jojo Lopez (left) pose at the new Rimula launch together with Asean Transport marketing manager Mon del Rosario, East Zone Transport general manager Enzo Rulli, Shell Helix Global brand manager Bernadette Kennedy and Asean consumer marketing manager Raffy Capinpin.

EASTERN TELECOMS OFFICIAL ISP FOR COMDDAP EXPO 2001

Eastern Telecoms was the official Internet service provider (ISP) of the Computer Manufacturers. Distributors and Dealers Association of the Philippines (Comddap) Expo 2001, which showcased the 'Basic Technologies for the Future' at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City. Rene T. Almeda, Etpi vice president for marketing (center) with Etpi executives, welcomes Science and Technology Undersecretary Fortunato dela Peña, keynote speaker and guest honor (third from left), with Comddap director Fisher Chua, Comddap director and chair of the organizing committee Juan Chua (second from right) and Comddap president Wesley Ngo at the Eastern Telecoms booth. Eastern Telecoms showcased its pioneer status as one of the country's leaders in Internet services through its ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Lines) and Gigabit Internet Servic[illegible].

Fruit flavors, scents in water you drink

FRUIT truths are practically old shots. Of course, fruits have vitamins and compounds. So great for the body, we want to gobble them up as often as we can buy them.

But what's new? The scent or aroma of fruits has been found effective as mood boosters. It's called aromatherapy. And the new twist is about to create a stir. Imagine fruit flavors and scents being combined with the purity of water. Yes, water.

ATT-Aqua Treatment Technology, the pioneer in water treatment and purification, recently launched John Springs Water Corp. in the Philippines. The firm will introduce, produce and market fruit-flavored drinking water.

So, soon you'll enjoy the goodness of [illegible] and scents of fruits with every bot[illegible]er you drink. So far, John Springs [illegible] up with six different flavors to suit most everyone's taste and preference.

Want to be more energetic? There's orange and lemon water, especially when you've got a million things on your head. Down in the dumps? Scrape yourself off the floor and get into the right frame of mind – with peach and guyabano flavors. Need to relax? Doing overtime or feeling your allergies acting up again? Melon and red apple water will do. John Springs is getting ready with other flavors. Do yourself a favor, just grab and drink the flavored drink that suits you.

If this sounds too good to be true, taste and smell it to believe it. Want fruits? Need water? Have both, call John Springs Water Corp. on Mayon Street corner Del Monte Avenue in Quezon City, 742-9200 or 742-9544.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PASAY

RI DISTR[illegible] 3810 MARKER AT THE HYATT

Major [illegible] Rudy S. Estrellado (PAF, retired), Rotary International D[illegible] governor (third from right) and RC Pasay president Tony [illegible]) beam with pride after the unveiling of their club marker [illegible]lled at the entrance of Hyatt Regency Hotel, Roxas, Pasay City recently. With Estrellado are (from left) F&B assistant manager Abel Nolasco, representing Hyatt Regency; former Bulacan Governor Obet Pagdanganan and District 3810 chief of staff Ric Venturina.

NATIONAL
DEPARTMENT
We care

IBM DONATES TO SCIENCE HERITAGE CENTER

IBM Philippines president Jack Hamill (fourth from left) hands over to Secretary Estrella F. Alabastro of the Department of Science and Technology (third from left) three units of the IBM Young Explorer fun and learning computers for the Philippine Science Heritage Center in the DOST Compound, Bicutan, Taguig. The computers, in child-friendly furniture by Little Tikes, a contain developmentally appropriate courseware by Edmark suitable for children 3 to 7 years old to enable them to learn science, mathematics and language skills using new technologies. Shown at the recent turnover ceremonies are (from left) Luningning Samarita, executive director of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST); Academician Jose Juliano, NAST secretary; Alabastro; Hamill; Tata Medado, EduQuest general manager; Mayor Sigfrido Tinga of Taguig; Richard Burgos, IBM communications manager, and John Titan, assistant general manager of Epson Philippines, who also donated color printers.

'Rediscover… look good and feel good'

THE 1ST Health, Beauty and Fitness Expo, dubbed as "Rediscover… Look Good and Feel Good," will be held from Jan. 18 to 20 at the SM Megatrade Hall 1, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Organized by The Next Step Events Planners, this prestigious event will showcase facial and skin products, health and food supplements, fitness equipment and accessories, beauty products, health services, fitness center, spa and other product lines and services that caters to both men and women who are into enhancing their "true beauty".

This exciting three-day event will also feature seminars, product demonstrations, competitions and other activities.

For more information and details, call the organizer at 893-9729, 813-0148, fax no. 893-9729 or e-mail nextstep_eventsplanner@yahoo.com.

FPDSavills
NATIONAL PROPERT ANTS

FPDSAVILLS AS PROPERTY MANAGER

Leading international property consultant FPDSavills Philippines Inc. (FPDSavills) was recently appointed as property manager of the state-of-the-art Pacific Plaza Towers (PPT) in the Bonifacio Global City in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. The Pacific Plaza Towers Condominium Corp. (PPT CondoCorp) signed the contract with FPDSavills for the management of one of Asia's finest and most luxurious residential condominium developments. The project was envisioned by the prestigious Metro Pacific Corp. and the Bases Conversion Development Authority in the tradition of excellence established by the Pacific Plaza Condominium in Ayala Avenue, Makati Central Business District. Present during the signing were (seated from left) Elizabeth Rabuy, director and general manager for property management, FPDSavills; Albert Del Rosario, president, PPT CondoCorp.; engineer Martin Rio, PPT resident manager, FPDSavills; (standing, from left) engineer Albert Briones, associate director for operations, FPDSavills; and Arah Burgos, associate director for business development, FPDSavills.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Optimism on the housing front: but work harder

BY FLORENTINO S. DULALIA JR.
Contributor

IN VIEW of the problems bugging the nation and the world at large, yes, almost everyone's expectation is it will be a difficult year for our people. In the past, Filipinos faced hard, even harsher times. But they survived them all and emerged, perhaps, even generally better off, especially if one looks beyond material things. Indeed, in this country, as elsewhere in this world, there are bad and good times. A basic reality of humanity's imperfection and mortality.

As a people and individuals, we can, therefore, hope for a better lot. It will, however, take more than merely hoping up front and at the sidelines, to confront our problems, neutralize or overcome them. We have to work harder than we are wont to do. We have to summon our best traits and talents, avail ourselves of our native ingenuity and resourcefulness, strain ourselves in the shining facets of our character and positive personal assets gained in training or experience in like situations.

Harnessing these same basic tools in our housing sector, there is certainly ground for expecting a better housing development this year and in the next few years. A closer government-private sector partnership and cooperation is in the works. Bold unified approaches to mounting a comprehensive mass housing program under a full-fledged Department of Housing and Urban Development, including a sustainable financing scheme, aimed at benefiting the underprivileged and the middle-income families, are being advocated by the private sector, particularly the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba). The executive and legislative departments are seriously looking at them. And the prospects are there for having a package of effective housing reforms take off sooner than the industry has expected.

This, certainly, is good news for the some four million homeless families in the land. Again, it calls for hard and harder work by the government, the people at large, and the industry, and praying to Almighty God to bless our mission and give us the strength to carry on.

The 2002 Creba team happily comes in at this historic juncture. The new officers, besides your new president, are lawyer Manuel M. Serrano, chair of the board; Purita R. Soliven, executive vice president; Orlando S. Bongat, vice president-finance; Editha L. Manansala, vice president-internal affairs; former Congressman Amado S. Bagatsing, VP-external affairs; Avelina P. Acuña, VP-chapter affairs; lawyer Luis B. Pangilinan Jr., corporate secretary; Teresita C. Millan, treasurer; and Rosemarie C. Basa, press relations officer.

The members of the board are Anastacio C. Adriano, Franklin G. Fuentebella, Florante C. Ofrecio, Ernesto C. Panis, Demetrio L. Posadas and Pedro C. Tirio, former Creba national president.

With the coming challenges and work ahead, to succeed, we need to further unify ourselves, strengthen our alliances and forge new ties to be able to accomplish programs and projects.

(Dulalia is the national president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations.)

DULALIA

ASBESTOS SUBSTANCE

Manufacturers warned against 'hair-splitting'

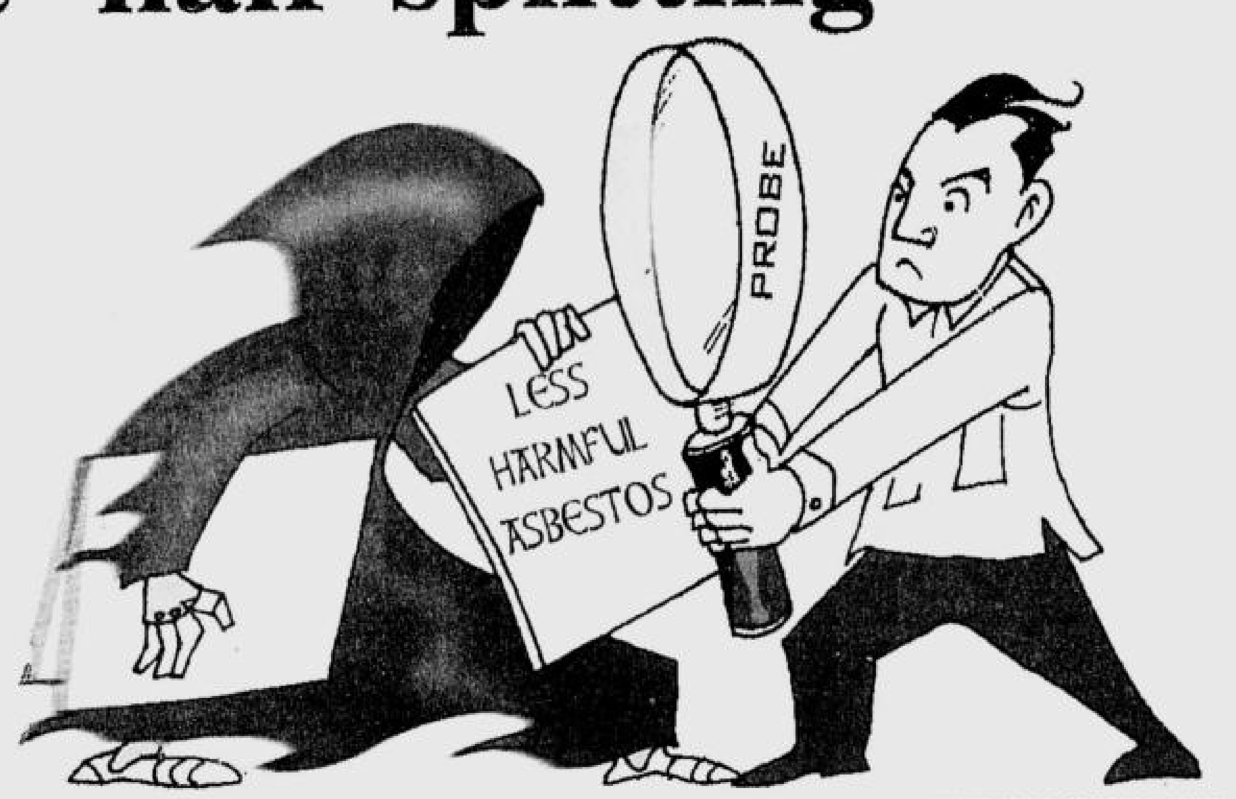


ILLUSTRATION:ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE CHAIR of the powerful House committee on housing and urban development today declared his support "to probe deeper into the revelations on the health risks posed by asbestos-containing products," after warning manufacturers in their attempt at "hair-splitting."

"I have noted the attempt at hair-splitting done by some sectors—especially manufacturers of products containing asbestos—that there are asbestos-laden products that are 'more harmful' and there are those which are 'less harmful,' said Rep. Prospero C. Nograles, who heads the House committee on housing and urban development.

Health risks

"Much evidence has been shown around the world, and we want to establish facts and figures on the dangers posed by asbestos," he said.

Nograles' support was close on the heels of the antiasbestos statement of Perfecto Yasay Jr., former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission, that "human life is nonnegotiable."

Nograles also called on health-care organizations to establish once and for all the risks asbestos poses on our people's health.

"Hospitals, medical institutions and occupational safety agencies should make public their records on cases of asbestos-related illnesses and diseases brought to their attention. I encourage them to obtain and validate independently sourced information on the health risks posed by this substance," he pointed out.

"Our own habitat—houses and offices—should be free from any hazardous substance. It would be a supreme irony if the very houses that should keep us safe is built from harmful substances that pose hazards to the welfare of our people," Nograles added.

He denounced some sectors that are making distinctions between "harmful and less harmful."

Said Nograles: "If asbestos is harmful, then it has to be banned. There are no ifs and buts to the public's safety."

Asbestos ban

Worldwide, 13 out of 15 member-countries of the European Union, for example, have already banned asbestos in their countries deciding not to wait until Jan. 1, 2005 when the EU has declared the ban on the use of asbestos to begin taking effect.

In a recent landmark verdict of the World Trade Organization, the WTO's Appellate Body issued a ruling in the case of Canada versus the European Communities validating the rights of member-states to prohibit the import and use of goods that contain carcinogenic substances, such as chrysotile or white asbestos.

The WTO ruling said "the efficacy of controlled use (of asbestos) is particularly doubtful for the building industry and for do-it-yourself enthusiasts—the most important users of cement based products containing chrysotile asbestos."

Other countries to ban asbestos in the workplace include the United Kingdom, Ireland, Brazil, Latvia, Chile, Argentina and Australia. Croatia and Hungary are expected to ban the harmful substance in 2005.

Bringing safe drinking water to households

BY CHARLES E. BUBAN

WITH URBANIZATION, there are growing numbers of threats that could contaminate drinking water. Suburban sprawl has encroached upon once-pristine watersheds, bringing with it all of the by-products of our modern lifestyle. With the increasing threats of such contamination, we cannot take the safety of drinking water for granted.

The safety of drinking water has become a major concern these days since a lot of us are buying bottled water just to feel safe. Even the chlorinated water coming from water suppliers is suspect.

What if we bring the purifier right inside our homes? Some companies are doing such by coming up with portable water purifiers. "There are many procedures in making our water safe for drinking. What our company did was to come up with a compact purifier that can be plugged into any water inlet in the house," says Lux Philippines managing director Rikard Rosen, during the recent launch of their products.

Filtration and radiation

The product, called Lux Aqua Guard GW 880, employs filtration and ultraviolet radiation in ensuring the water is safe for drinking. From the water inlet the water goes in the device where the water is processed through a series of filtration to remove physical impurities such as mud, sand and rust. Afterward, the water is exposed to UV radiation to kill disease-causing microorganisms that might still be present in the water.

"Lux Aqua Guard will help households to have easy access to clean and safe drinking water at the convenience in their own homes," assures Rosen. "More than that, this device will also help prevent water-borne diseases such as diarrhea and typhoid fever."

Powerful UV lamp

The Lux water purifier boasts of several features that offer numerous benefits to its users: a powerful UV lamp power that delivers three liters of purified water per minute; a UV sensor which reads and measures radiation intensity for easy monitoring; and an automatic pitcher dispenser that delivers a liter of water in a single push.

The UV lamp employs an electronic ballast that improves its life span and output while the UV sensor has an automatic shutoff mechanism so that water will not flow if the system detects a fluctuation in UV power which may result in an incomplete sterilization of water.

Exported in Asia

Lux is also exporting the Aqua Guard to other Asian countries. General manager Chito Santiago announced that they are now exporting 88 percent of their product to Asia and hopes to reach Europe and the Americas this year. "We are grateful that Lux Asia-Pacific believes in us and by investing in our facility, we are confident we will reach our goals," he said.

Lux Philippines, Lux Manufacturing Corp. and Lux Asia-Pacific Group belongs to Lux Co., a Swedish outfit founded in 1901. Today, Lux Asia-Pacific Group has an annual turnover of $200 million with 11 key markets in the region, including the Philippines.

CONSTRUCSCOPE

Housing agenda up at SHDA meet

THIS year's major legislative agenda for the housing sector are up for discussion during the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association's first monthly business meeting for this year. The meeting will be held at noon, Jan. 17, at the Makati Room of Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City. Guest of honor and speaker is Rep. Prospero C. Nograles, chair of the House committee on housing and urban development. Nograles is expected to discuss the legislative bills including on the creation of a Department of Housing and Urban Development; setting up of local housing boards; as well as on those on housing finance and other innovative programs for the industry, according to SHDA national president Noel S. Gonzales. Member-developers and guests interested to attend may fax their confirmation forms at 890-0323 or 890-7032, or send them by e-mail at shda@mozcom.com.

CEP seminar for license renewal

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. will conduct the "Ultimate Continuing Education Program (CEP)" on Jan. 12 and 19, Saturdays, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The comprehensive program will be held at the Penthouse, Main Dining, Old Makati Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The two-day seminar aims to address the problem of renewal or issuance of new real estate brokers license for 2001 and 2002. Interesting subjects covered are 2001 real estate review and 2002 forecasts; estate planning and how to avoid estate tax; development and marketing of memorial parks; appraising your residential and commercial properties; land use planning; Family Code and its effects in real estate transactions; and updates in real estate taxation. Interested parties may call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0585 or 69 or e-mail at pmrb@broline.com or visit unit 502-P, 5th Floor, Parking Bldg., Cityland 10, H.V. dela Costa corner Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Bachelors pads featured in 'My Home'

COSMOPOLITAN men and their living spaces take center stage in the latest issue of "My Home" magazine, its first anniversary special. Featured condominiums include entrepreneur Tonyboy Ongsiako's posh pad, barrister Willyboy Pineda's chic living area and doctor Eric Berberabe's stylish abode. International stylist Rachy Cuna's touch is also visible in a Tagaytay vacation home, in addition to sculptor cum landscape artist Claude Tayag's awe-inspiring gardens in Pampanga. Under the "entertaining" section, PIID president Gerry Contreras boasts of beautiful table settings guaranteed to enhance one's appetite. Published by Earth+Style Corp., the lifestyle property developer, in cooperation with Mega Magazine and Publications Inc. (MMPI), "My Home" is available bimonthly in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops nationwide for P125.

Trane Philippines supported by global industry leaders

WHEN it comes to indoor comfort and convenience, industries around the world recognize one global name for product excellence in air-conditioning systems: Trane.

Touted as one of the largest manufacturers of heating, ventilating, air-conditioning and building management system based in the United States, the Trane Co. has more than a hundred year history of innovations, corporate milestones and an inestimable list of clients worldwide.

Though the company has a notable reputation in Philippine industries, not too many people are aware that its name is backed by another corporate entity that stands for product excellence. Trane Philippines is a subsidiary of American Standard, one of the world's pioneering and largest manufacturers of bathroom products.

Trane's relationship with American Standard can be traced to 1982, when the latter, aiming to keep up its competitive stance through product diversification, decided to reenter the air-conditioning market. It was fortunate that William Roth, then chair and chief executive officer of Trane, wanted to merge with a company that shared Trane's values and management philosophy, which emphasizes quality, durability, innovation and integrity of service.

The merger was completed in 1984, with Trane operating as a wholly owned subsidiary of American Standard. The merger helped Trane obtain a partner that allowed it to grow the business and make the necessary investments toward this end.

Trane was already recognized at that time as a prime innovator in its field, making the company a highly attractive acquisition for American Standard. Its operations, present in nearly every part of the world today, touch on diverse areas as manufacturing, engineering, research and development.

The company is noted for developing the first direct drive hermetic centrifugal refrigeration machine; the first packaged absorption chiller; the first packaged air-cooled reciprocating chiller; the first commercial product using scroll compressors; and the Integrated Comfort Systems that use micro-computer controls to monitor, diagnose and manage occupant comfort and energy use.

Trane is now also bringing its strengths and advantages for large-scale industries to small and medium enterprises, single-floor offices, restaurants and residential areas with its Unitary line of heaters and chillers. Among these are the Koolman 500, the Aquastylus, the Maxxum and other convertible type chilled water fan coil units.

With over US $4.7 billion worldwide sales, Trane has proven to be among the most vital acquisitions of American Standard, a product of an excellent partnership among companies leading through commitment to quality and value.

Club Morocco construction remains full blast

Sta. Lucia Realty maintains full management, operations

STA. Lucia Realty and Development Inc.'s year-end banner venture Club Morocco Beach Resort and Residential Estates in Subic remains full blast in constructing various villa components and infrastructure that defines its Mediterranean-inspired water resort community concept.

Sta. Lucia also maintains full reign over the management and operations of the venture, including running the full-service hotel and 10 family duplex beachfront villas.

Said SLR president and chief executive officer: "Contrary to what may have been perceived by some sectors, Club Morocco's management and operations remains fully in our hands. We will be bringing in the expertise of the same team that shaped another Sta. Lucia golf resort development—Royale Tagaytay Golf and Country Club—to Club Morocco to ensure our clients' every need will be satisfactorily addressed and assure them and their families full appreciation of their investment."

The 240-hectare estate is situated in a charming cove ringed by spectacular views of the water, perfect for watersports and walks along the beach, nearby Snake Island's terrain; the forests of Zambales, and the mountains of Bataan accessible for trekking and other land-locked adventures. As such, Club Morocco makes full use of these leisure opportunities by providing facilities for residents and guests, for their absolute enjoyment of a leisure weekend and all-year round.

At present, Club Morocco has engendered much interest. In fact, the residential estate's Villa Monaco spread has been sold out. Villa Ibiza and Villa Venezia, which complete the three-subdivision setup, are also generating as much investor interest.

Club Morocco Hotel, on the other hand, only has to be given the final touches to transform the clubhouse-cum-three-story hotel into a world-class resort hotel with 24 twin-sharing room appointments, suites, kitchen, dining facilities, and boutiques, function rooms, gym, game rooms and lake-type swimming pool. The duplex villas have been 100 percent completed. Being shaped are open spaces allotted for helipads, picnic and recreational areas as well as parks.

Recently, issues have surfaced regarding the development and operation of the property. Sta. Lucia Realty's prior agreements with landowner Guaranteed Homes Inc. still stands, and issues raised have been resolved.

The developer and its marketing affiliate Royale Homes Marketing Corp. continuously undertake marketing efforts, including site tours. For further queries, contact the RHMC at 726-4317 and 724-7107.

Property disputes prevailing in 2002

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

Last year's conflict seemed not to have spared the local real property sector. A year of disputes involving developers, private owners, farmers, government and businesses won't let the water horse of 2002 rest.

Farmers losing ground

As of now, Barangay Macabud farmers say they are losing to golf course developer Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club.

Farmer leader Elvira Baladad said in an interview last week that her group was pinning its hopes on Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, who promised to resolve the case equitably and set the matter rightfully.

The contested property has been applied for exemption by Capitol Golf and is set to become a 141-hectare championship golf course.

The property was earlier labeled as a deferred land use zone. It has been reclassified by the Sangguniang Bayan of Rodriguez from deferred to agricultural use, as stated under the Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Act. This would mean the area would have to be protected by law. Some portions being tilled by the farmers have notices of CARP (Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program) coverage.

Barangay Macabud is within the La Mesa Watershed area where 86 million liters of water sustain the needs of Metro Manila residents daily.

The intended golf course, meanwhile, would reportedly affect farmers in 1,800 hectares in Rodriguez, Rizal province. These farmers claim they grow root crops, fruit-bearing trees and vegetables in the area.

Capitol Golf could not be reached for comment. In its July 1999 publication Capitol Times, president Boy Roman said the organization can now "look forward by 2003 in seeing another great golf course sprout in the barren land of Macabud, Montalban, Rizal."

Also expected to be built along the golf course is a country club that features an ecosystem for a mini forest development and theme park. A portion of Capitol Golf was reported last year to pave the way for the Ayala Land Inc.'s Ayala Heights residential gateway to the north of Metro Manila.

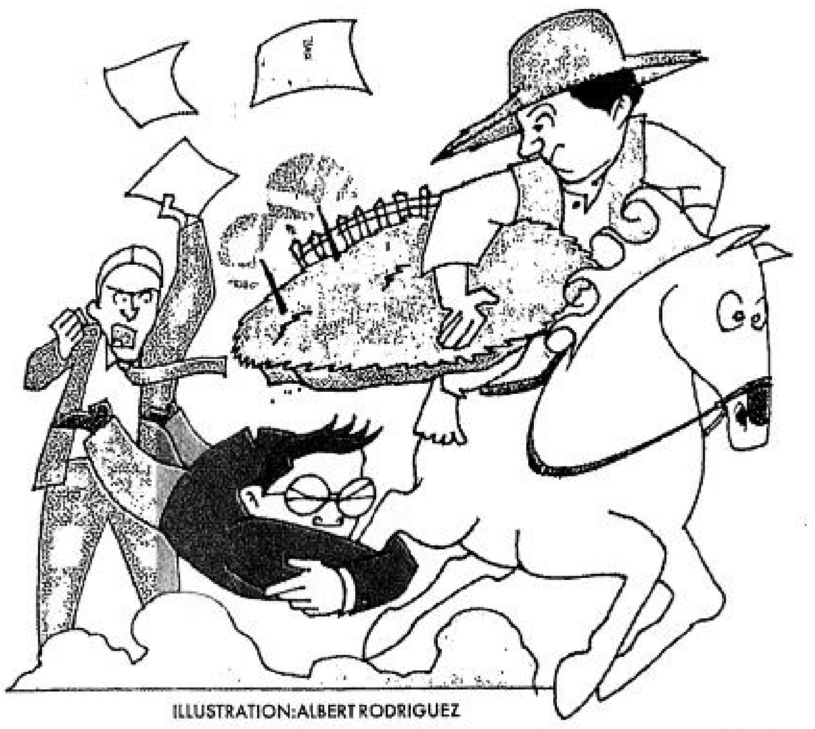


ILLUSTRATION:ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Farmers losing to Philcomsat

A satellite earth station in Baras, Rizal, said to be the Philippine gateway to more than two-thirds of the world, is a source of conflict between property owner Philippine Communications Satellite and the Pinugay farmers.

The Philcomsat property has been declared by the Court of Appeals recently as exempted from CARP coverage.

This was stated by Provincial Agrarian Reform Office head Luis Bueno during an interview last Friday. The Municipal Agrarian Reform Office received a copy of the Court of Appeals decision stating the security zone provision.

Bueno said, however, that it may not be over yet once the DAR files an appeal.

A presidential decree was issued in July 1982 stating the declared security zone areas to be the entire area surrounding the satellite earth station within a radius of three kilometers from the main satellite station. This covers a total of 5,654 hectares.

In 1992, the DAR placed the entire Pinugay area under CARP through the compulsory acquisition scheme. The area was found to have been occupied by farmer cultivators and planted with mango, banana, corn and rice.

Philcomsat could not be reached for comment on the latest development.

Moldex carries on

Moldex Realty Inc. continues to develop the Metro Gate/Heritage Homes in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, on the 108.5-hectare property reported as a source of conflict between Moldex and the Sapang Palay farmers.

Moldex Realty president Rey Ignacio Diaz said the matter has been reduced to the determination of the just compensation for the tenants (farmers).

"As far as the conversion of property is concerned, the Supreme Court has decided that the property is convertible," said Diaz in a phone interview last Saturday.

The next step, he said, would be identifying the legitimate tenants affected by the conversion. Second would be the just compensation amount for them.

These two issues are being heard and are pending with the Central Darab of the DAR and with the Court of Appeals.

The Samahan ng mga Magbubukid sa Sapang Palay told the Inquirer the pending cases at the CA and the Darab are security of tenure, maintenance of peaceful possession and the legal rights of the selected farmers who are not yet willing to settle.

"The CA ruling on selected farmers is another matter," said a Samasa member who refused to be identified.

Gov't loses; Espinosa group wins

The government lost in its bid to recover over 99 hectares of property in Las Piñas City.

This was declared by Assistant Solicitor General Ernesto Bellasilla in an interview last week. Last year, the contested property was estimated at P30 billion by the Office of the Solicitor General.

The same property, however, was then disputed between a private firm and a private owner.

The seven-year struggle, however, ended in favor of the Espinosa group. This disclosure, ironically, was relayed to the Inquirer by losing firm Firestone Ceramic Inc. owner Mariano Nocom.

Nocom told the Inquirer that his company was respecting the Supreme Court decision, but he added that it was based on a fake title. His company, he added, won in the Regional Trial Court and the Court of Appeals.

The dispute involved a 99-hectare property with the Espinosas claiming to be the original owners of 75 hectares and the Firestone Ceramic claiming 18.

Firestone Ceramic was found to have been claiming 3.7 hectares more.

Your Total Solution to any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™
Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements

SUPERSEAL
Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

TILESTIK
Waterproof Tile Adhesive & Grout
Waterproof, high strength cement-based tile adhesive & grout for interior/exterior wall and floor, thick and thin bed application, not affected by continual exposure to water

'from the most trusted name in waterproofing:
CAMPBRIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVE., METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel. Nos. 252-05-31 up to 32; 252-05-49 up to 51; 252-05-59; Fax No.: 252-05-50
Website: www.campbridge.com

Distributor for Northern Luzon:
DAGUPAN TONY'S LUMBER INC. (PROBUILD)
AB Fernandez Ave Dagupan Tel-No (075) 523-4113 to 14/522-0477
Distributor for Visayas and Mindanao:
CEBU OVERSEA HARDWARE CO., INC.
#82 Plaridel St Cebu City Tel No (032) 254-1511 Fax No (032) 52426
AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

ATTENTION
FURNITURE MAKERS, CONTRACTORS, DESIGNERS, DEVELOPERS and HOUSEWIVES

Don't just ask for any laminate... ask for
MELAMINE-LAMINATED BOARD
for your TABLES, CABINETS, DOORS & WALLS

MELAMINE BOARDS
NOW MANUFACTURED RIGHT HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES
(USING GERMAN TECHNOLOGY)

Why settle for just any laminate when you can have something much, much better?

NO MORE
- CIGARETTE BURNS
- PEEL-OFF ON EDGES
- SCRATCHES & STAINS
- PAINTING, SANDING, & VARNISHING

- Available in solid colors and woodgrain designs.
- Complementing edge banding materials available.
- Can be laminated on particleboard, MDF and hardboard According to your size specification.

Manufactured and distributed by
WORLD CLASS PANELS MARKETING, INC.
22-D, Scout Albano Street, Quezon City
Tels. 4110091 to 92, 3711742 • Telefax 3742962

ATLANTA

QUALITY ASSURED FIRM
ISO 9002
SGS

ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.

Leading manufacturer of PVC & PE Pipes and Profiles.

Now an ISO 9002 certified firm.

A collective effort done by team ATLANTA.

Committed to providing quality products and services.

Dedicated to consumers.

Your Pipeline to Progress.

SGS
SGS Philippines, Inc
International Certification Services

ACCREDITED
Quality System Certification Body

ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.
Ground Floor, Goldhill Tower, No. 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. nos.: 723 0781 to 96, 744 4700 to 05 Fax nos.: 722 8705, 723 9576
Website: http://www.atlanta.ph E-mail: atlanta@netasia.net

Banks urged to commit funds for housing finance

HOUSING and real estate practitioners affiliated with the Private Consultative Council for Shelter have called on government and private banks including financial institutions such as the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to commit funds this year for housing finance to boost homeownership and help attain the government housing targets.

A unified consultative and advocacy body for affordable housing, the PCCS is composed of six major real estate organizations—the National Real Estate Association, Women in Shelter and Its Environment, Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines, Builders Alliance Toward Action (Bata), Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (Creba) and the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association.

In a press statement, Romeo Thaddeus Liamzon Jr., concurrent Bata and PCCS chair, said the commitment of funds, both for housing subdivision development and housing finance, will serve as a critical planning tool for housing procedures in attaining their production targets for the year.

Available housing starts could be turned to completed units, which in turn could be easily sold, with the assurance of funds for homebuyers' finance. Moreover, existing unsold inventories of completed units could also be disposed to a prequalified market of homebuyers, once funding commitments for individual housing loans are firmed up, Liamzon emphasized.

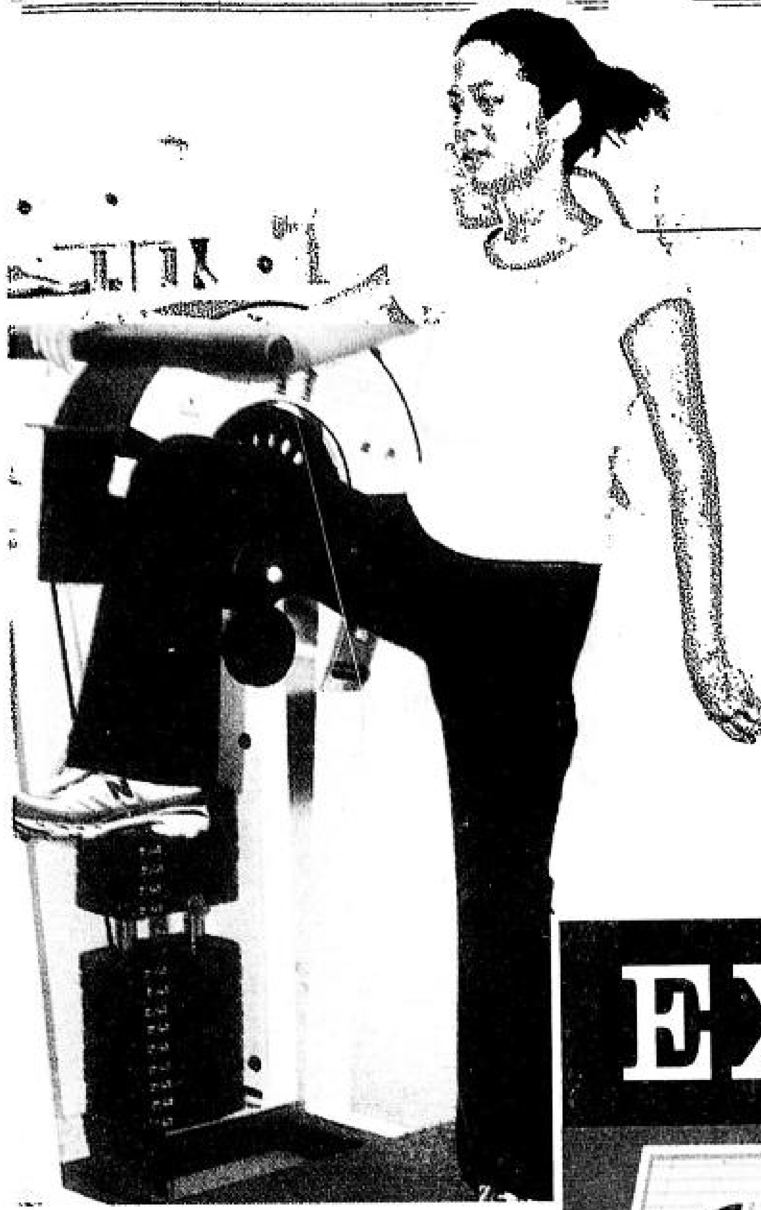
Given that the government has started to pave the way for a more conducive regulatory environment for housing production through the recently issued Executive Order No. 45, (which dramatically cuts the permit issuance process to three months for a housing project development to start) the funding allocations from home financing institutions should follow, to sustain the production and buyers acquisition of housing units, he cited.

On the other hand, while housing producers share the banks' concern arising from their high level of nonperforming loans as a dampener to lending, the government should also be able to address said concern through the further strengthening not only of its loan guarantee capability, but also of the capacity to service guarantee calls on loans which could turn sour, Liamzon added.

TOP SALES PERSONNEL

Affordable housing developer Empire East Properties Inc. recently recognized its best-performing sales directors, managers and real estate consultants for 2001 during its annual sales and marketing awards night, which also coincided with the company's Christmas party. EEPI president Zenaida Marquez, far left, handed out awards for the company's sales leaders of the year in terms of option sales and paid-up sales as well as service awards and awards for model employees and employee of the year. Cavite satellite office branch sales manager Rose La Rosa, second from left, received the President's Cup for garnering the highest paid-up sales. Also shown are EEPI senior vice president Harry Paltongan, second from right, and assistant vice president for sales and marketing Emil Perez, far right.

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR EMAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH
LIFESTYLE
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
fitness



JOYCE JIMENEZ AT WORK: She used to weigh a hefty 130 pounds.

The Joyce of being fit

By Ricky T. Gallardo
Contributor

PEOPLE say that the most credible preachers are the doers of their word. Indeed, why believe someone who doesn't follow his own advice?

For screen bombshell Joyce Jimenez, giving out tips when it comes to staying fit is no sweat. With a very healthy vital statistics of 36-24-36, the sexy actress doesn't even have to say much to convince people that she knows how to attain and maintain those curves—her body does all the talking!

"I used to weigh a hefty 130 pounds when I first started doing movies a couple of years back. Now I'm down to a hundred," the 5'2" star says.

Achieving this shape, though, isn't as simple as sounding like a promo for a weight-reducing product. Jimenez employs the age-old rule of regular exercise and balanced diet with a practical mindset.

"I work out at the gym every day, but I don't live there. I don't kill myself over my program. I think the reason working out tends to be a pain to most people is because they expect too much in so little time," she shakes her head and bites her lower lip. "Of course, when things don't happen according to our expectations, we get frustrated. Truthfully, I only spend an hour at the most working out, then I stop, relax and move on to other activities."

Daily regimen

Jimenez's daily program starts with 30 minutes of standard cardiovascular exercises (treadmill, transport, bike). She then proceeds to do weight training for her arms followed by a 10-minute leg exercise. After spending a little more time on her abs, she caps off her program with some stretching.

Since her goal is simply to keep her muscles toned, Jimenez says she prefers light weights repeated more than usual. "I never aim to have 'cuts' because I don't think I'd look good with muscles à la Madonna. They'll also make me look really short."

As a complement to her gym visits, Jimenez has developed a fondness for boxing, which was introduced to her by Lily Monteverde's daughter, movie producer Roselle. Mildly athletic even before she joined show biz (she was a swimmer

THE JOYCE / p.C2

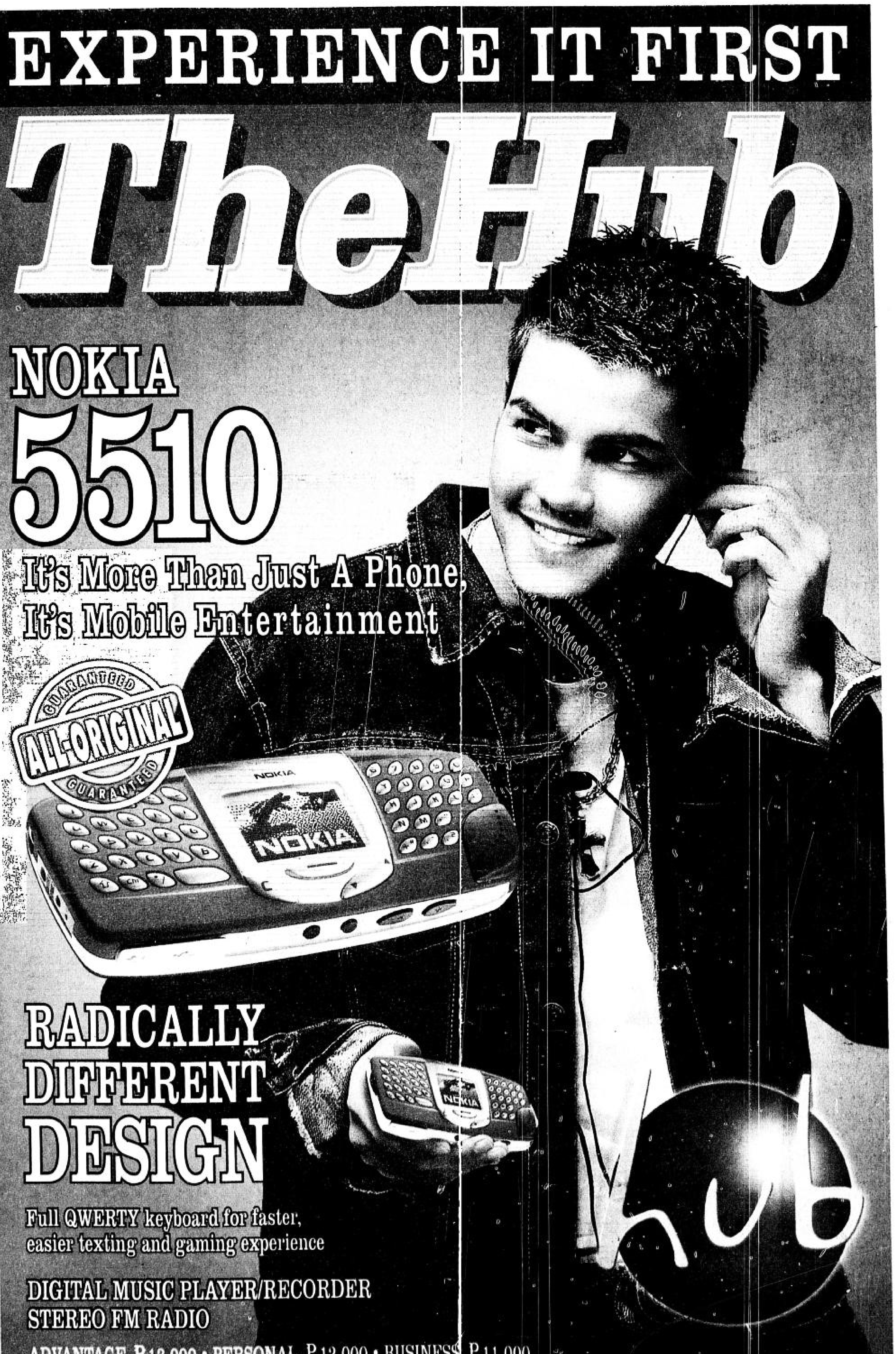
Your Beauty Bath need not be expensive.
The New Ariva Cristina. With Easy Installment plans.
Call now to get Free Installation!
724-59-07
415-93-78
ARIVA
WATER HEATERS
P705.17 x 12 mo.

Massage Shower Set w/ Riser Bar
Splash Proof ABS Cover
Easy Control Switch
Sediment Filter
Complete Fittings
Soap Holder

FERSAL INN
New CONDOTEL
Avlb 2 & 3 BR
Fr. US$95 net ☎912-8000
Fully Furnished
*
Clean
*
Nice Rooms
P400 to 1,300/DAY
Disc. on Wkly/Mo.
* 11th Day FREE

107 Neptuno St. Makati City 1201 Tel (632) 897-9123 Fax (632 897-9107	245 P. Tuazon St. Cubao, 1109 Q.C. Tel. (632) 912-8000 Fax (632) 9136078	130 Kalayaan Ave. Diliman, Q.C. Tel. (632) 924-2689 Fax (632) 925-3205	49 Annapolis St. Cubao, Q.C. Tel (632) 912-5652 Fax (632) 911-3418

E-mail: fersalinn@i-manila.com.ph



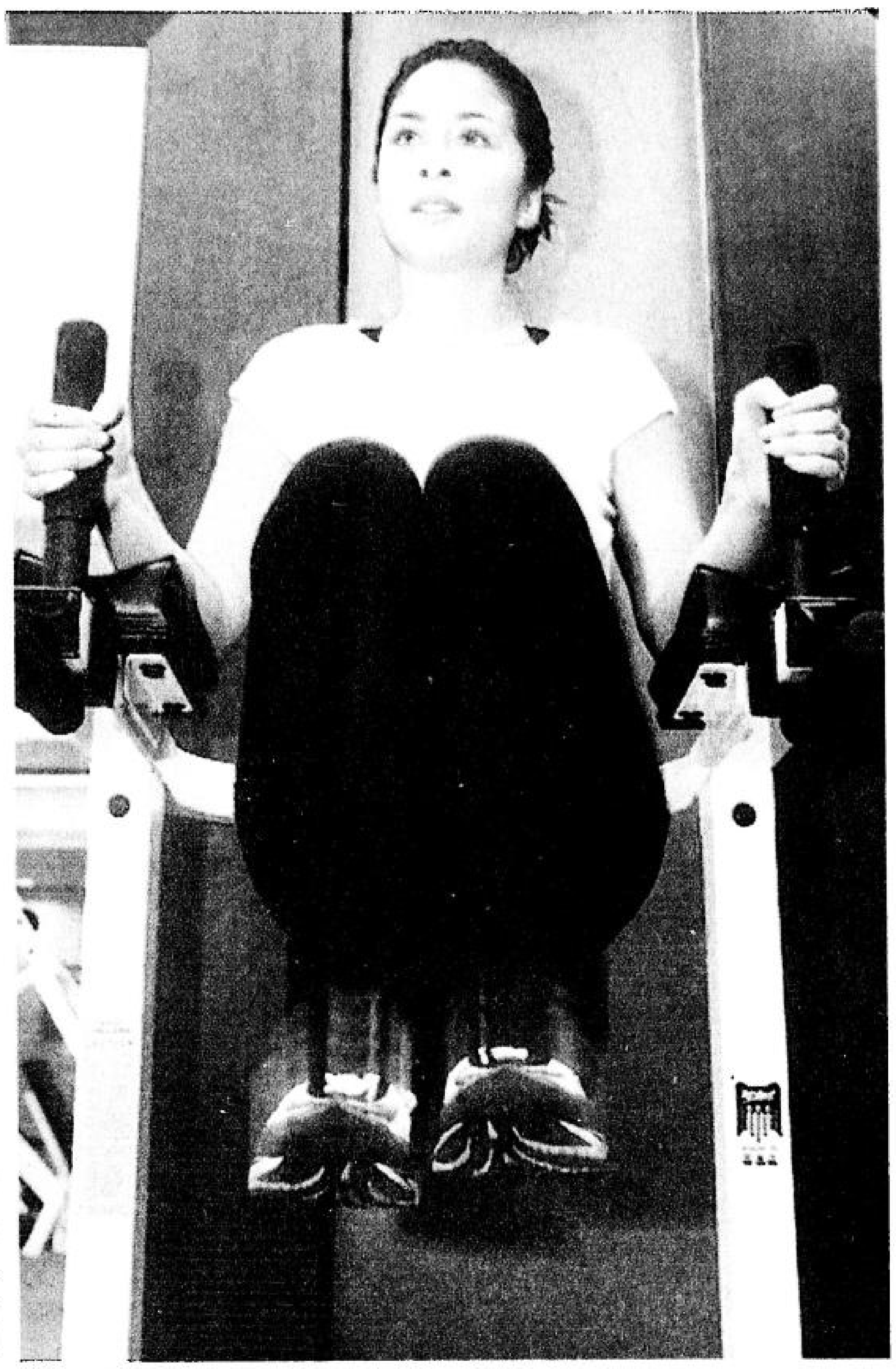
EXPERIENCE IT FIRST
The Hub
NOKIA
5510
It's More Than Just A Phone,
It's Mobile Entertainment
RADICALLY DIFFERENT DESIGN
Full QWERTY keyboard for faster, easier texting and gaming experience
DIGITAL MUSIC PLAYER/RECORDER
STEREO FM RADIO
ADVANTAGE P13,000 • PERSONAL P12,000 • BUSINESS P11,000
EXECUTIVE P10,000 • CEO P9,000 • HANDSET SOLO P15,000
hub
by Globe Telecom
NOW AVAILABLE AT THE HUB AND GLOBE TELECOM BUSINESS CENTERS NATIONWIDE.
Level 2, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati • Level R3, The Power Plant Mall Rockwell, Makati

GUARANTEED
ALL-ORIGINAL
GUARANTEED
NOKIA

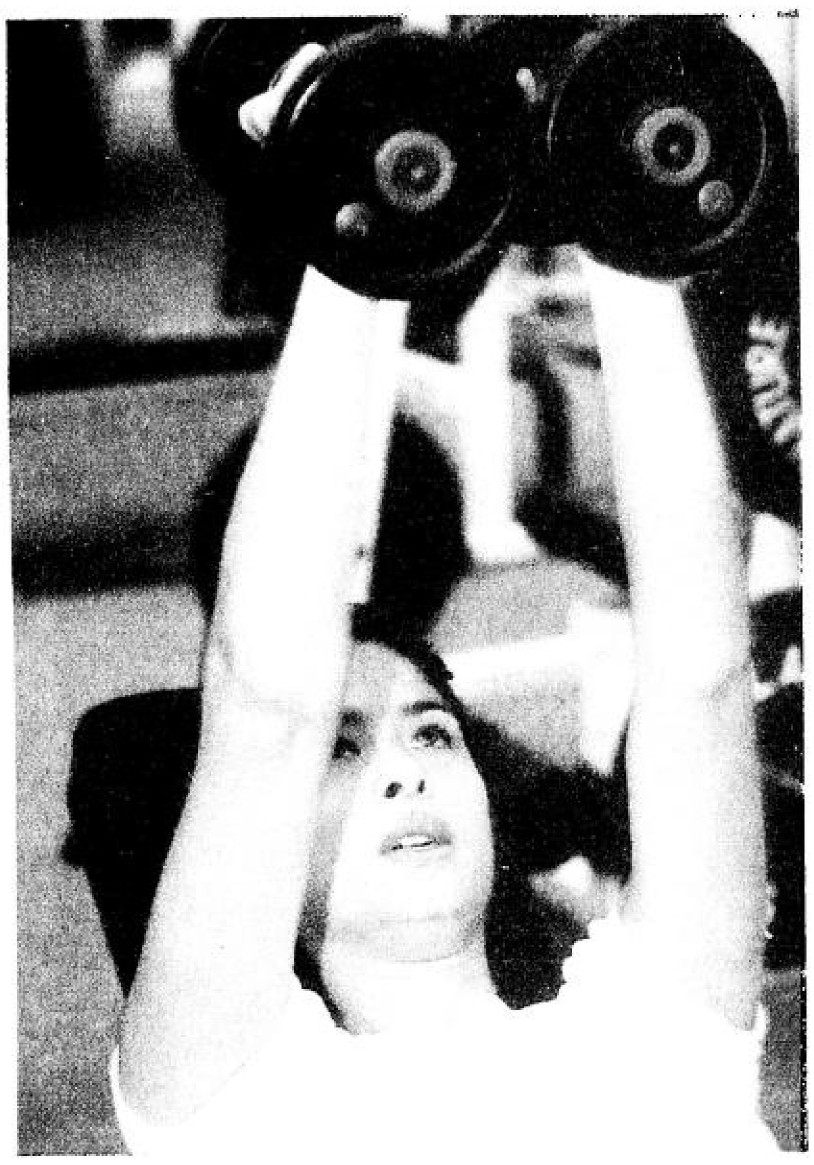
WEIGH LESS CENTER
Body and Face molde by Mendez
MENDEZ MEDICAL GROUP
Free use of day spa and massage when you enroll
please call for more details
373-3365 / 373-3366 / 373-0766
374-2437 / 371-8886 / 371-8887
WEIGH LESS CENTER & SPA, 31-C Roces Ave., Q.C.
CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, Mkt.
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, Basement Level, SM North, Q.C.
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
• BINONDO 2nd Flr. 434 Paramount Bldg., Quintin Paredes St.
ALABANG BRANCH, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Pixie Forest Entrance)
• Clinic Hours Tues & Thurs 1-3 Pm
MINDANAO AVENUE BRANCH, 2F Ronda Bldg., Mindanao Ave., Q.C.
CEBU HOLDINGS Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA CLINIC, O. Y. C Bldg. 2nd Flr. 212 B Mendoza St.
San Fernando Pampanga • Clinic Hours Wed & Fri 1-5 Pm
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT

Bombshell Joyce Jimenez unveils her secrets on staying shapely and fit

REGIMEN aims to tone her muscles, not buff them up.


PROGRAM also emphasizes abdominals.

The Joyce of being fit


WEIGHT-TRAINING for arms

(From page C1)

back in California during her school years), boxing helps her in the pursuit of balance and mental fitness. It's an effective stress-buster "and certainly cheaper than shopping," she muses.

When it comes to diet, which most fans think is Jimenez's favorite word at the moment, moderation is the key. Rather than shun fattening foods totally, she indulges herself on these once in a while to stave off the feeling of deprivation that almost always leads to binging out. "I don't see the point in starving yourself and taking away the pleasures in eating what you like. It doesn't make sense. That's why I'm also not too picky on food as long as everything is kept in check."

"I cannot not eat," she stresses, then adds, giggling, "I still crave for *tuyo* and *champorado* some nights. But really, I don't watch what I eat. I don't like the idea of being on a diet. I just make sure everything I take is done in moderation and I don't go overboard on fattening foods. I want to enjoy life so I need the energy to do it," she rationalizes. She also drinks lots of water and downs fresh orange juice to keep her afloat amid her hectic schedules.

Since her show-biz commitments have given her erratic sleeping habits, Jimenez gets a shuteye whenever she can. "Because there are times when my body doesn't know anymore if it's night or day, I sleep whenever I can. I think I've mastered that—*yung kahit saan, puwede akong matulog*," Joyce says.

To pamper herself, she regularly goes to the spa. Aside from helping her relax, it loosens up tight muscles and regulates blood circulation. "It's a way of treating myself after continuous days of working hard."

Fit leading men

Unsurprisingly, among the leading men she has worked with, Jimenez cites Diether Ocampo, her rumored intimate companion at the moment, on top of her list. "I like Diet's abs and his firm 'behind,' " she breaks again into giggles. "*Gusto ko kasi sa lalaki 'yung nakikita ang* V-shape *sa* lower abdomen. Plus, he doesn't have gigantic arms. Men who look like club bouncers and wrestlers are just not my type, sorry."

The topic makes her glow spontaneously, and she herself notices it. "It was Diet, in fact, who inspired me to rediscover the joys of working out so I can be fit and keep myself healthy. It's intimidating *kasi* to have a leading man who's fit and then you're wiggly all over. *Nakakahiya naman, di ba?*"

Piolo Pascual, her next leading man in a film intended for Valentine's Day, is another celebrity who takes pains in keeping a healthy mind and body. "He's very disciplined and focused."

To people who want to be like Joyce, the actress gives her wise advice: "Give yourself time. Realize that you are not going to see results in just a month's time. Don't weigh yourself all the time. That's a no-no! The measuring tape is the gauge. Muscles weigh more than fats. Be patient."

Looking at Joyce, you know that's no lip service.

Nutrition products to help you get back in shape

THE HOLIDAYS are over, so it's time to get back in shape. Health Express, your sports nutrition provider, can help you start the year right by giving you a variety of products that are guaranteed to help you achieve your fitness goals.

The health store chain offers sports nutrition products classified into five categories: Amino acids/protein, creatine, gainers, carbohydrates and dietary supplements.

Amino acids are the building blocks of protein which are necessary for muscle-building. Health Express offers amino acid products, both in capsule and powder form with different brands. Twin Lab's Amino Fuel 2000 has the highest amount of protein per serving at 8 grams, and contains a more concentrated source of peptide bonded amino acids, L-Carnitine and branched chain amino acids.

Another brand, USA Laboratories 2323 Nitro Amino, combines the power of chromium picolinate and amino acids to help you build leaner muscles. Chromium picolinate is a substance that converts body fat to energy, helping maximize the body's absorption and utilization of amino acids. In powder form there is Muscle Tech's Meso Tech with 52 grams of protein, which is recommended for heavy lifters. For women gym buffs, there is Nitro Tech with 20 grams of protein formulated to help tone and build muscles.

Creatine monohydrate is good for people who want extra strength, stamina and energy in their workout. It enhances performance and hydrates muscles during workout, thus acting as a muscle cell volumizer.

Creatine also comes in capsule and powder form. Twin Lab's Mega Creatine Fuel contains 1,200 mg per capsule. In powder form there are two kinds. The pure creatine, which you take orally is USA Sports Lab Creatine Max that contains 5 grams per serving and is clinically tested with its quality pharmaceutically approved.

Health Express also offers flavored creatine called Cell-Tech (10 grams per serving), in orange/grape and lemon flavor. Twin Lab's Creatine Fuel Cocktail contains 7 grams of creatine per serving and a special combination of nutrients that can help speed recovery and create a favorable hormonal environment for muscle growth after high-intensity training.

Gainers are for people who want to gain weight and increase their body mass. It is important to look at the calories from protein per serving in choosing a gainer. Twin Lab's Gainers Fuel 2500, in powder form, is the highest quality, nutrient-dense weight gainer on the market, with a colossal 2,500 calories per serving when mixed with 3 cups low fat milk. The product also contains the highest quality of whey, essential vitamins and minerals and the lowest amount of fat.

Carbohydrates are what assist the body with energy to start your workout, as well as to aid in body recovery after the workout. Two good carbohydrate supplements are Twin Lab's Carbo Fuel and Ultra Fuel. Carbo Fuel is the only carbohydrate energy drink which contains both carbohydrates and metabolic optimizers. Mixed with water, it supplies 80 grams of carbohydrates through a combination of glucose polymers and fructose that allows for maximum replenishment of glycogen in muscles and the liver for enhanced performance, rapid recovery and high endurance levels.

Health Express' Dietary supplements come in four categories: fat burners, meal replacement powders, metabolic enhancers and appetite suppressants. Fat burners contain Chromium Picolinate that converts fat into energy, or Pyruyate which aids in decreasing body fat and increasing lean body mass. Chitosan, another fat burner, assists the body in blocking fat from being absorbed by the body.

Twin Lab's Diet Fuel, USA Sports Lab's Cutting Edge and Fat Burner are good choices as fat burners. Twin Lab also has Twinfast—the most advanced, very low calorie meal replacement powder that is guaranteed as an effective weight-loss formula. It only has 80 calories per serving and has great taste. Twinfast is nutritionally complete—three servings provide daily supply of proteins, vitamins and minerals plus electrolytes. It is very low in fat and cholesterol free, available in chocolate and vanilla.

Health Express also carries the first Mahuang Free Metabolic Enhancer Ripped Fuel that aids in energizing your workout. It is also a superior thermogenic fat metabolizer and metabolic enhancer that contains citrus aurantium, guarana and L-Phenylalanine for a more ripped body. Then there's the all-natural appetite suppressants such as Nature's Bounty's Slim with Fiber and Grapefruit Diet.

Visit Health Express at the 2/F Quad III, Ayala Center, Makati; Festival Supermall in Filinvest; Tutuban Center; Ermita, Robinsons Galleria; Robinsons Place Novaliches, Iloilo, Bacolod and Los Baños. Call 892-7978, 840-1855 or 892-9364.

2323
NITRO AMINO
RIPPED FUEL
FAT BURNER
GAINERS FUEL 2500
NITRO-TECH
TWINFAST
CREATINE FUEL

Miracle substance that adds more life to your life

MUCH has been written and said about coenzyme Q10. Experts hail it as a life-preserving nutrient and urge supplementation of the body's natural ability to supply CoQ10. Stories are told of how the so-called "miracle substance" can strengthen the heart, boost the immune system and extend life naturally.

ADDLIFE
CoQ10

In the Philippines, Pascual Laboratories manufactures its own CoQ10 product—AddLife CoQ10—and brings this remarkable substance within reach of the Filipino consumer. AddLife CoQ10 is 30 mg pure coenzyme Q10 in capsule form.

But what is coenzyme Q10? CoQ10 is a natural fat-soluble substance found in every cell of our body with particularly high concentration in heart muscle cells. CoQ10 facilitates production of energy in little cellular units called mitochondria. Aside from being a cellular organizer, CoQ10 prevents LDL cholesterol from being oxidized. LDL cholesterol, once oxidized, is known to clog our arteries, constricting blood flow to the heart and causing various heart and health complications. Because of this, CoQ10 has become popular as an antioxidant and a preventive agent for heart diseases.

Dr. Emile G. Bliznakov, a leading American expert on the immune system and aging, provides extensive documentation to show that CoQ10 is essential to life. He said, "The most exciting discovery of CoQ10 is its ability to protect the body functions and organs, especially during surgery."

Made from the finest imported raw materials and taken once daily, Pascual Laboratories' AddLife CoQ10 is available over-the-counter at Mercury outlets and leading drugstores nationwide. Call 920-1911 or e-mail addlifecoq10@mail.com.

Drug helps the obese lose weight rapidly, study says

A NEW research conducted by the North American Association for the Study of Obesity (Naaso) says that weight-loss medication Xenical (Orlistat) helps overweight and obese people lose weight rapidly and is associated with rapid improvements in cardiovascular risk factors.

Of the 430 people who have participated in the study, 83 percent achieved clinically meaningful weight loss of about 5 percent of their body in the first 12 weeks of treatments. The greatest weight loss (4.1 kg) was seen in the first four weeks of treatments. Body mass index was reduced by 2.9 kg/meter squared. Waist circumference was reduced by 6.3 cm on average.

Weight loss in the first month of treatment was also associated with rapid improvements in cardiovascular risk factors and reductions in mean diastolic and systolic blood pressure. Reduction of waist circumference decreases insulin resistance and improves blood sugar, cholesterol levels and blood pressure.

A second presentation of Naaso further confirms that Xenical is successful in maintaining weight loss over a two-year period. Xenical is a weight-loss drug that works locally in the gut to prevent dietary fat absorption by around 30 percent. It is well-tolerated and unlike appetite suppressants, it does not act on the brain.

CANCER patient kids of Makati Medical Center have a great time at Timezone.

Fun day for sick children

CHILDREN residents of the Makati Medical Center's Pediatric Hematologist Department were given a much-needed respite from the confines of their clinical surroundings when Timezone hosted a special day for them at the family entertainment center's Glorietta 4 branch.

For one whole afternoon, the kids roamed around Timezone, freely choosing the games they wanted to play. Six-year-old Joshua Noriega, who was battling leukemia, enjoyed the Time Crisis game the most, while Christian Lanzar, 13, fighting hemophilia since he was born, loved the Tekken game and the Marvel vs Capcom. John Frendel Omang, 4, was found to have tumor more than a year ago. That afternoon, he attempted three-point shots at the Mini Dunxx.

Like John, 3½-year-old Adrian Sarmiento, the youngest in the group, a retina blastoma patient since birth, became a Mini Dunxx fan. Nine-year-old Rafael Garcia, also battling leukemia, loved the Out Run. Mejoy Felizario, 6, a thallasimia major patient, can't get enough of the Humpty Dumpty game while being watched over by mom Melanie. Asia Rivera, a 6-year-old leukemia patient, enjoyed the Belly Bomber. Finally, 13-year-old Dorothy Portento, a brain cancer patient, couldn't let go of the Fire Stomper and Ribbit Racin'.

The kids were joined by their families, which indeed made the experience a truly memorable one for everybody. However, it was Dr. Allan Racho, head of the Pediatric Hematology Department of MMC, and his team of doctors who were truly happy since they were able to organize the event for their kid patients.

RAFAEL Garcia, 9, suffering from leukemia. Fave game: Out Run

Visit Timezone Family Entertainment centers located at Glorietta 2, Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt in Makati. Other centers are located at Alabang Town Center's 3/L and cinema lobby, Ayala Center Cebu, Starmall and the newly opened branches at Metro Point (Edsa Taft) and Greenhills Shopping Center.

DOROTHY Portento, 13, suffering from brain cancer and embryonal cancer..Fave game: Ribbit Racin'

ADRIAN Sarmiento, 3½, suffering from retino blastoma. Fave game: Mini Dunxx

Zonta Club treats battered women and kids to party

ABUSED children as young as 3 years old and females, aged 11 to over 30, find refuge at the Sagip Crisis Center in Muntinlupa.

Sagip (Saklolo at Gabay ng Ina't Pamilya) is a project of the Zonta Club of Muntinlupa. It aims to provide shelter, counseling, rehab and legal assistance to hundreds of battered women and abused children.

Recently, the Zontians treated the Sagip family to a Christmas party. After the merrymaking, each family went home with bags of goodies from Universal Robina Corporation, Avon, Jeanne Goulbourn and Zonta members.

The best thing they took home with them was the happy memory of that day when they found hope even for just a few moments.

SWEET treats for the children of Sagip Center

FUN and games for the children of the Sagip Center as Zontians look on.

Saving planet earth by changing consciousness

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

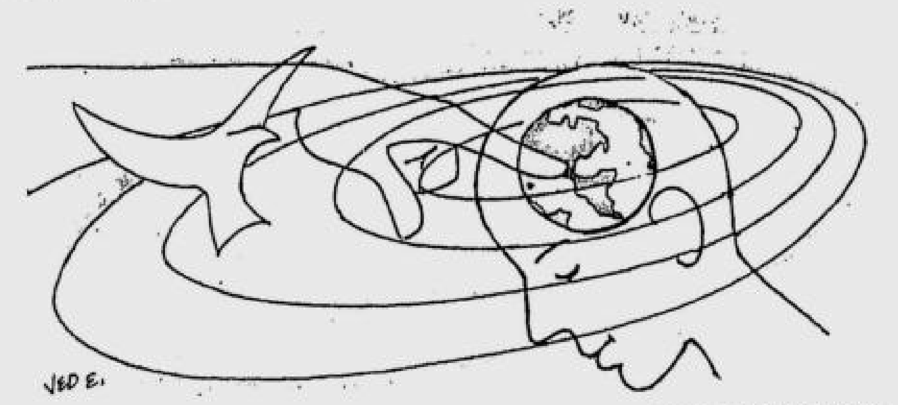


ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

AS my first column for 2002, I would like to share with my readers a very important message that was sent by my friend from the United States, Dr. James J. Hurtak, who is president of the Academy of Future Science in Los Gatos, California and author of the epochal book "The Keys of Enoch." It is best for all of us to take heed of what he says because he possesses direct knowledge of things to come as conveyed to him by invisible Beings of Light from above:

"We are at the threshold of the most significant evolution. We will either be part of a rapid transition into higher consciousness or we will rush headlong into barbarous fratricide. A careful reflection on our role in the different theaters of daily emotional struggle and conflict can show us that the boundaries of these emotional horizons can be directly influenced, as well as psychologically altered for the better. We must use the Divine insights to forge a new direction, one that goes beyond the clouds of despair and leads to a positive contact with Higher Intelligence. This begins with a self-realization of the greater powers of Love and Light, which we can represent.

"In the 1970s we had the privilege of working with several pioneer parapsychologists who demonstrated to leading scientists the power of the mind to mentally see, intercept and mitigate people bent on destructive activity thousands of miles away! We must realize that we, as cosmic partners in this life, are being tested to use our psychological and spiritual skills and achieve conflict resolution in the heightened midst of a world drama.

"On one side of life are the global structures of violence and fear, of high-profile terrorist warfare directed against world populations (which also include wars between ethnic groups, racism and genocide, and exploitation of peoples). On the other side is Homo sapiens cosmicus, through which we become aware of the greater whole through cosmic consciousness. This is not the end of the journey, or the end of the planet, but the beginning of the experience that transcends the limitations of the planetary mind.

"Large numbers of people networking with the paraphysical powers of positive thinking and protection can further human evolution to emerge from global catastrophes and daily withstand and transcend conflict, individually and collectively. By your daily awareness of the identity of the spiritual forces acting positively in the universe, you make your life a gift as powerful as the 'meta-gift' envisioned historically by the three shepherds to the Christ child.

"We must also use the sacred Names of God as our daily bread, resonating with the Christ nature within each of us. What else can we do as planetary emissaries of Light?

"Lay up for yourselves 'treasures in Heaven,' that is, seek God's direction and feel the Shekinah presence. Ask Him to guide you every day—in planning your organization, decision-making, implementing and relating to everyone with whom you are in contact with.

"If possible, surround yourself with people who are open to the Light and can vibrate according to spiritual music and the vision of the imperishable presence of a much greater family in the universe, in service to the Godhead that will help the human community in some unique way.

"Work on an effective daily offering of prayer or chanting the Divine Names (or Liturgy of Daily Prayer) until you can feel the vibrations change your life and positively affect others that you touch upon.

"Stay positive in your networking during problematic times. Like a focused laser beam, refuse to be infected by the worrying, the complaining and laziness of others (Colossians 3:23). Help the wayshowers that may appear from different parts of the world or, in some unique circumstances, prepare for the brief manifestation of Whole Light Beings. Discern and understand the dimensional realities of the Cosmic Christ.

"And most important, pray without ceasing, knowing the greater life. Earth cannot be changed for the better unless the consciousness of individuals is changed. Let us pledge to work for such transformation in individual and collective consciousness. We, as human beings, are also luminous beings by virtue of being manifestations of the superluminal essence of the Divine.

"This year we had the opportunity to speak before leading archeologists at the world conference on 'Unsolved Mysteries' and presented actual artifacts on the bottom of the ocean and under the deserts of Egypt, as well as to address planetary leaders and experts at a plenary session at the UN on the challenge of the rainforest and the crying message of indigenous peoples.

"The Academy is committed to finding the 'pieces' of the Greater Plan, especially through its work in Mexico, Brazil and southern Africa, in reaching the masses whose reality is also collapsing. Given the time-line, the opportunity to work effectively is running out, and we have so much more to do with your help. The living sign of the Son of Man will be appearing in the heaven of the inner and outer Eternal Life, and it will not be destroyed, but will only enliven.

"Finally, concentrate on the higher path of your public ministry. Let us always contribute to the happiness of others through the manifold expressions of our love and by cultivating the spark so others can see in your eyes and over your head the Light of the Divine."

DR. JAMES AND DESIREE HURTAK

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What are excess charges?
Excess charges, more appropriately called excess in room and board are charges payable to the hospital when a member is confined in a room rate higher that his actual coverage, but is within the same level or category. Example of which is when a member is entitled to a P 500/day room but stays in a P 600/day at the same room category. Excess charges are computed based on the difference of the room rates multiplied by the number of days confined.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Ophthalmologist, **Dr. Juan S. Lopez** is MEDICard's accredited specialist based in St. Luke's Medical Center. Dr. Lopez, famous for being the only Filipino member of the American Uveitis Society, earned his degree in Medicine from UP and his residency training from UP-PGH. He subspecializes in the treatment of Cataracts, Glaucoma and Uveitis where he received his training from the National Eye Institute, NIH, USA. Visit Dr. Lopez for your consultation needs. Drop by his clinic at the Medical Arts Bldg. of St. Luke's, every Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 PM.

Meet **Dr. Genevieve D. Tupas**, MEDICard's pediatric specialist based in San Pedro Hospital, Davao. Doc Genevieve is a graduate of Medicine from the Davao Medical School Foundation. She earned her residency training for her specialization from Davao Doctors Hospital and is currently affiliated with the Philippine Pediatric Society and the Davao Medical Society. Outside her clinical practice, she is also an instructor at the Davao Medical School Foundation, teaching Microbiology. For your healthcare needs, visit her at suite 211, Medical Arts Building of San Pedro Hospital from Mondays to Fridays, 10 AM to 12 noon.

Dr. Maria Celeste R. Casimiro is one of the most recent additions to the top brass roster of MEDICard medical service providers. She is based in Perpetual Help Medical Center and specializes in General Pediatrics. Doc Maria earned her degree in Medicine from the Far Eastern University and her residency training for her specialization from Perpetual Help Medical Center. For your consultation needs, visit her at room 610 every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 AM to 12 noon and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 to 10 AM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

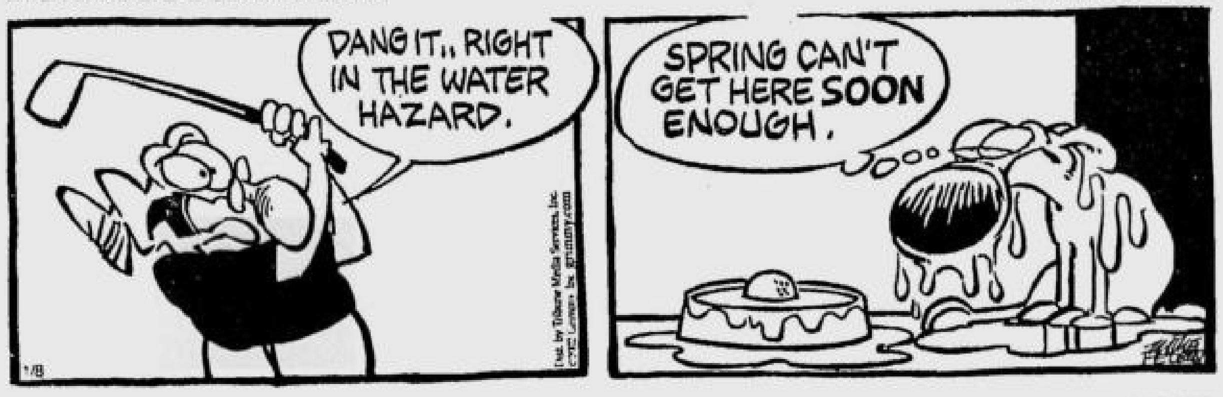
TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name, and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

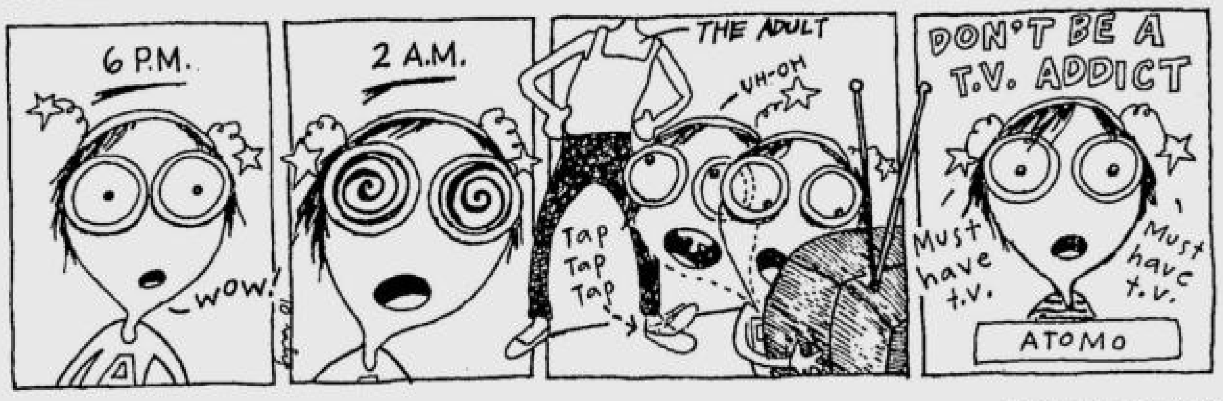
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


DANG IT.. RIGHT IN THE WATER HAZARD.
SPRING CAN'T GET HERE SOON ENOUGH.
1/8

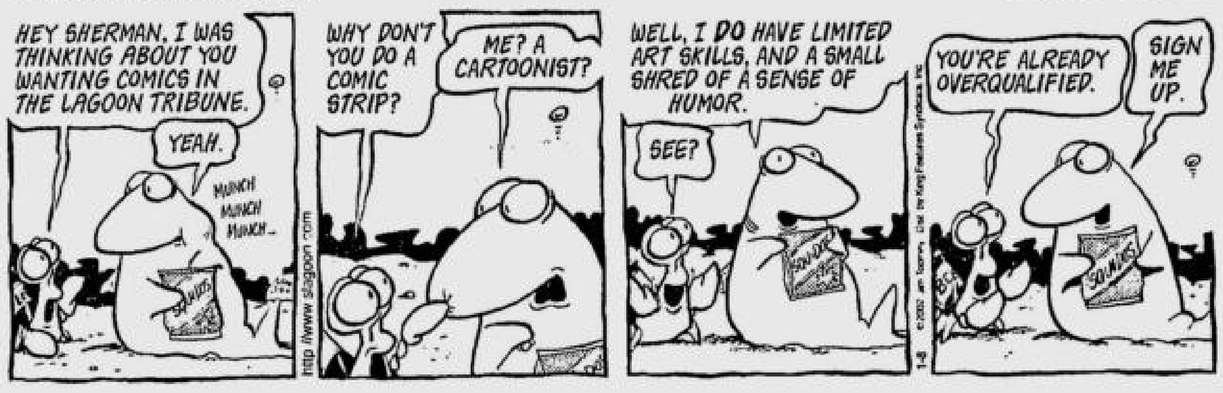
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


6 P.M.
WOW!
2 A.M.
THE ADULT
UH-OH
Tap Tap Tap
DON'T BE A T.V. ADDICT
Must have t.v.
Must have t.v.
ATOMO

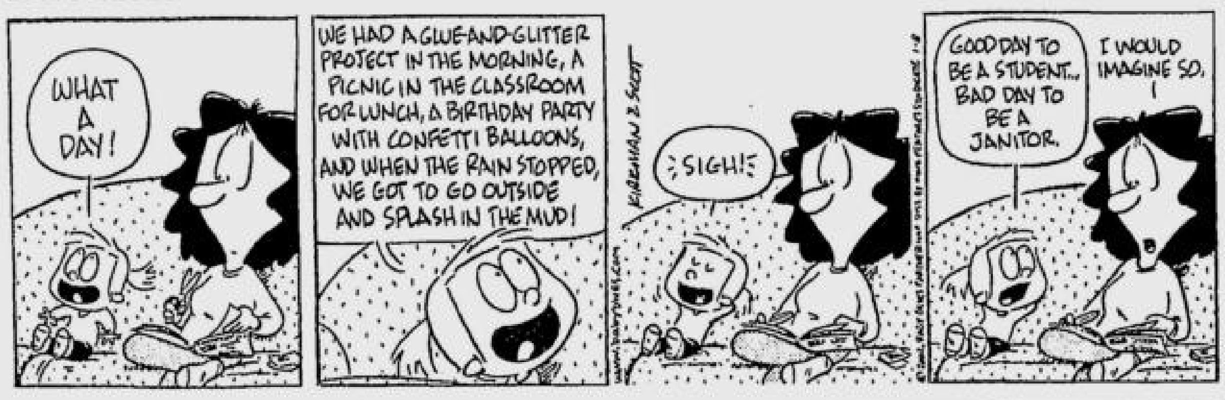
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY SHERMAN. I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU WANTING COMICS IN THE LAGOON TRIBUNE.
YEAH.
MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH...
WHY DON'T YOU DO A COMIC STRIP?
ME? A CARTOONIST?
WELL, I DO HAVE LIMITED ART SKILLS, AND A SMALL SHRED OF A SENSE OF HUMOR.
SEE?
YOU'RE ALREADY OVERQUALIFIED.
SIGN ME UP.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT A DAY!
WE HAD A GLUE-AND-GLITTER PROJECT IN THE MORNING, A PICNIC IN THE CLASSROOM FOR LUNCH, A BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH CONFETTI BALLOONS, AND WHEN THE RAIN STOPPED, WE GOT TO GO OUTSIDE AND SPLASH IN THE MUD!
SIGH!
GOOD DAY TO BE A STUDENT... BAD DAY TO BE A JANITOR.
I WOULD IMAGINE SO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
www.babyblues.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ami Dolenz, Robby Kreiger, David Bowie, Stephen Hawking

Happy Birthday: Be inventive but don't lose sight of what the possibilities are. You must keep things within range so that you don't fall short of your goals. If you are prepared to research along the way you will find yourself moving in a positive direction. Your numbers are 8, 13, 29, 33, 41, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Minor health problems may flare up if you haven't been good to yourself. You have been overdoing it and it may be time to sit back and take a breather.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The more compassionate and loving you are the better your day will go, so make plans to do something special with someone you care for deeply. Don't let your professional interests stand in the way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do your best to get along with everyone today. Getting involved in creative projects will be satisfying and bring you a little acknowledgment. Travel and learning should be at the top of your list.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should be out enjoying the company of friends or that special person in your life. You will be in an affectionate mood so don't waste it sitting at home alone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can expect those you live with to pose a problem today. Get all the facts first and take your time before you decide what action is necessary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your involvement in worthwhile organizations will help you put things in perspective. Helping a cause you believe in can make a difference and it will also bring you in contact with people who share your concerns.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make professional changes today. If you are happy with your current position, don't hesitate to ask for a raise or present your ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be in a questioning mood. Reading self-help books or attending seminars will bring about a definite change of attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be feeling a bit of a squeeze financially but if you play your cards right you should be able to turn things around.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your involvement in large organizations that have a cause will be your best bet. Your ability to offer suggestions and solve problems will be valued by those you encounter.

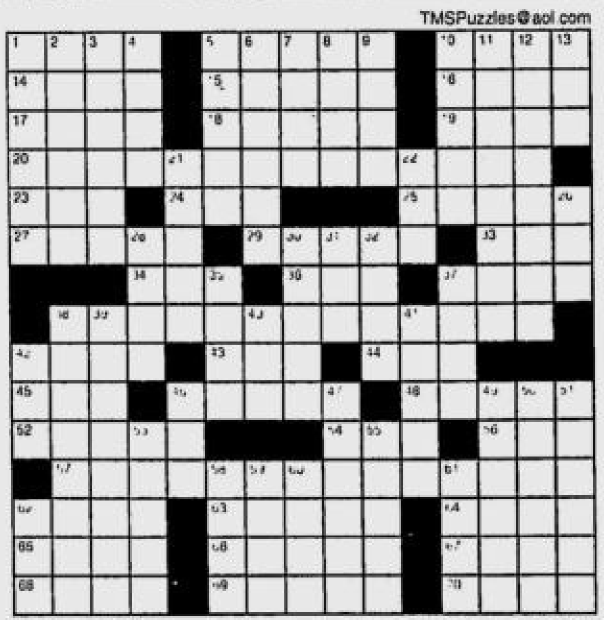
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on your professional position and getting along with your colleagues. If you work in conjunction with others and are willing to compromise, much can be accomplished today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can't lose if you are willing to go the distance. You will be in a philosophical mood and your ability to help others and play the role of a peacemaker will put you in an excellent position.

Birthday Baby: Who said you couldn't do whatever you want. That isn't something that you would respond to favorably. You are engaging, strong willed and determined to follow that small voice within.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

11/23/01

ACROSS
1 Swabs
5 Dean Martin hit, "That's __"
10 Skiers' ride
14 Black-and-white cookie
15 Language of Kuala Lumpur
16 IRA type
17 Vilnius lang.
18 Texas A&M student
19 Mr. Preminger
20 Movie twosome
23 "Do Ya" grp.
24 NAFTA participant
25 Nautical direction
27 Dutch pottery
29 "M*A*S*H" character
33 L-P contents
34 Possessive pronoun
36 Zero
37 Eager
38 Comic strip twosome
42 Bridle strap
43 __ Darya River
44 Wash. neighbor
45 Skill
46 Question aggressively
48 Night hunter of the future
52 Analyze syntactically
54 Belief
56 First lady?
57 TV twosome
62 Small speck
63 Wear away
64 Money __ everything!
65 Neighborhood
66 Played a part
67 Scottish lake
68 Beatles hit song, "Back in the __"
69 Storage buildings
70 Leg joint

DOWN
1 Shaped
2 Baltimore bird
3 Gas in Gloucester
4 London district
5 New Delhi nannies
6 Hungarian
7 Russian saint
8 What to be right as
9 Looked at
10 Throng along
11 __ out (hit a low point)
12 Court figure
13 Pi follower
21 __-frutti
22 Black goo
26 Huge amount
28 Sawyer's pal
30 Invalidate
31 Accomplished
32 Moreover
35 Burn the surface of
37 Understood
38 Turf tools
39 Certain sails
40 Friend in France
41 Smell
42 Rhyming music genre
46 Jewel
47 Equipped with a cover
49 Class exercise
50 Prove
51 Cut canines
53 Daub
55 Luges
58 Votes for
59 St. Louis monument
60 Staff character
61 Smooth comparative
62 Half a Kenyan rebel?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

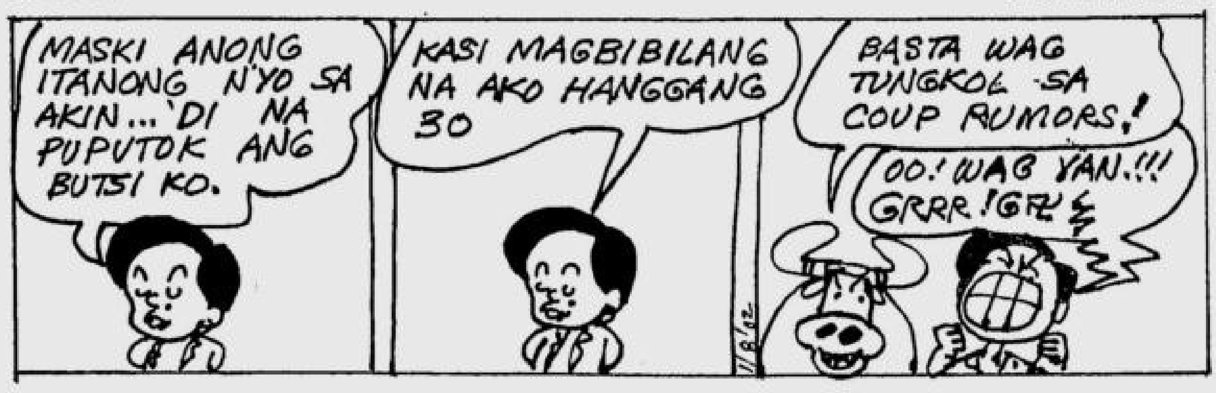
A	L	D	E	R	■	I	T	S	■	R	A	S	P	S
L	O	I	R	E	■	L	O	O	■	B	L	O	A	T
B	R	O	A	D	W	A	Y	F	A	I	L	U	R	E
S	E	N	T	R	A	■	S	I	S	■	■	S	I	P
■	■	■	O	O	N	A	■	A	C	T	R	E	S	S
A	S	H	■	C	E	N	T	■	I	O	U	■	■	■
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	T	O	M
T	O	R	E	■	■	L	E	I	■	■	B	O	D	E
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	O	F	S	Y	R	I	A
■	■	■	R	O	Y	■	S	L	I	T	■	Y	E	T
R	U	D	O	L	F	S	■	A	R	I	L	■	■	■
E	C	O	■	■	A	U	K	■	S	N	A	R	E	S
B	O	W	L	E	R	S	H	A	T	T	R	I	C	K
U	N	S	E	R	■	I	A	N	■	E	N	N	U	I
S	N	E	V	A	■	E	N	D	■	D	E	G	A	S

(C)2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc
All rights reserved.

11/23/01

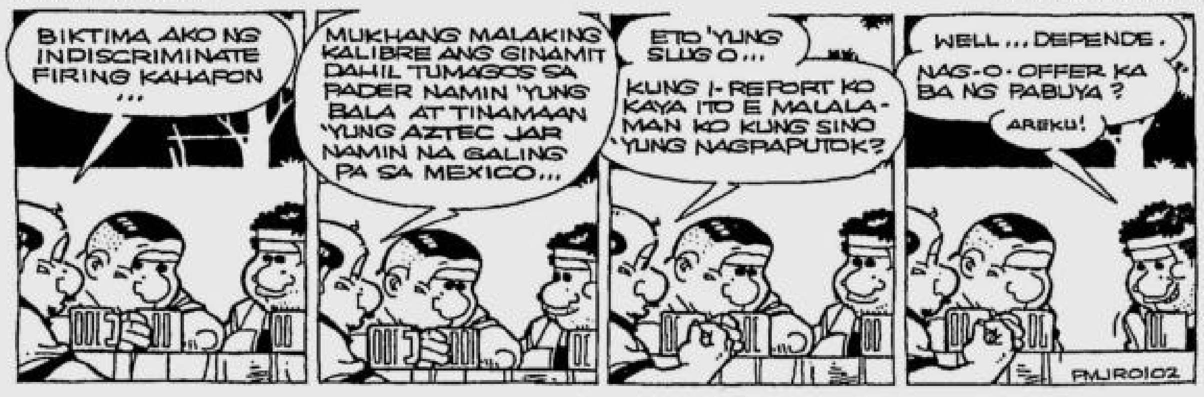
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MASKI ANONG ITANONG N'YO SA AKIN... 'DI NA PUPUTOK ANG BUTSI KO.
KASI MAGBIBILANG NA AKO HANGGANG 30
BASTA WAG TUNGKOL SA COUP RUMORS!
OO! WAG YAN.!!! GRRR!GRR

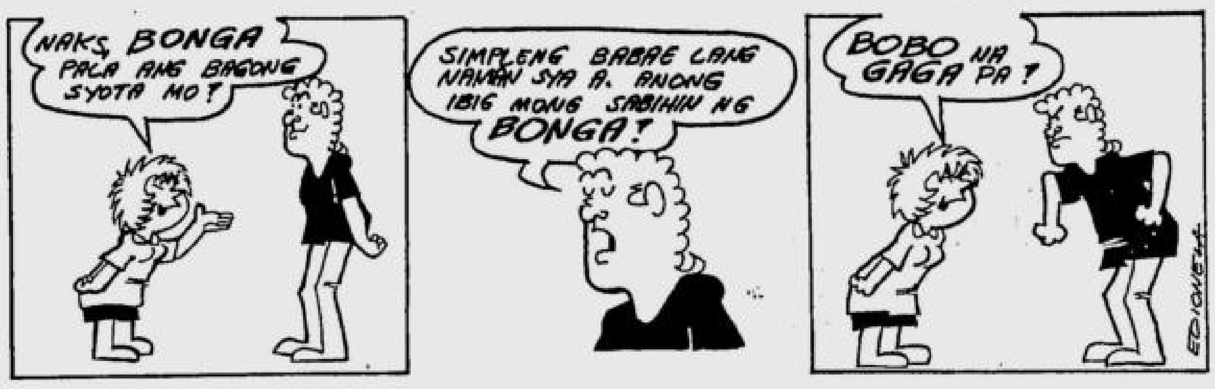
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BIKTIMA AKO NG INDISCRIMINATE FIRING KAHAPON ...
MUKHANG MALAKING KALIBRE ANG GINAMIT DAHIL TUMAGOS SA PADER NAMIN 'YUNG BALA AT TINAMAAN 'YUNG AZTEC JAR NAMIN NA GALING PA SA MEXICO...
ETO 'YUNG SLUG O...
KUNG I-REPORT KO KAYA ITO E MALALAMAN KO KUNG SINO 'YUNG NAGPAPUTOK?
WELL... DEPENDE.
NAG-O-OFFER KA BA NG PABUYA?
ARBKU!
PMJR0102

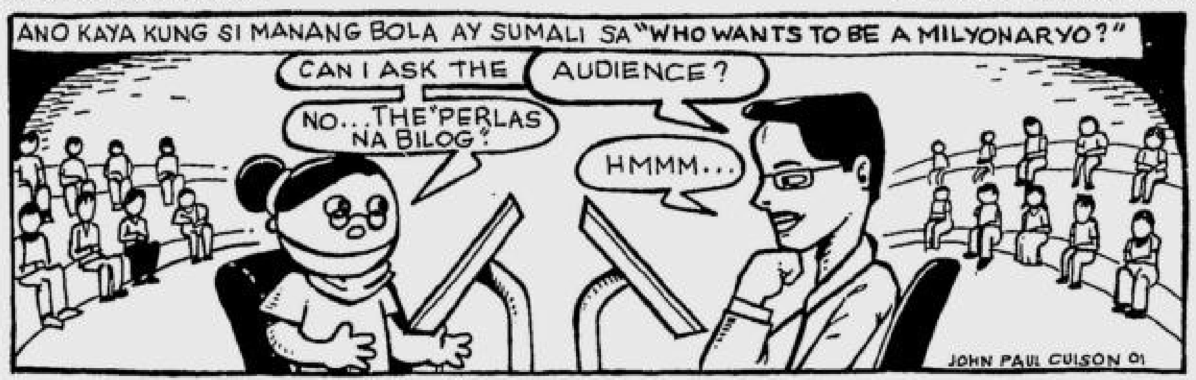
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAKS, BONGA PALA ANG BAGONG SYOTA MO?
SIMPLENG BABAE LANG NAMAN SYA A. ANONG IBIG MONG SABIHIN NG BONGA?
BOBO NA GAGA PA?
EDIONELA

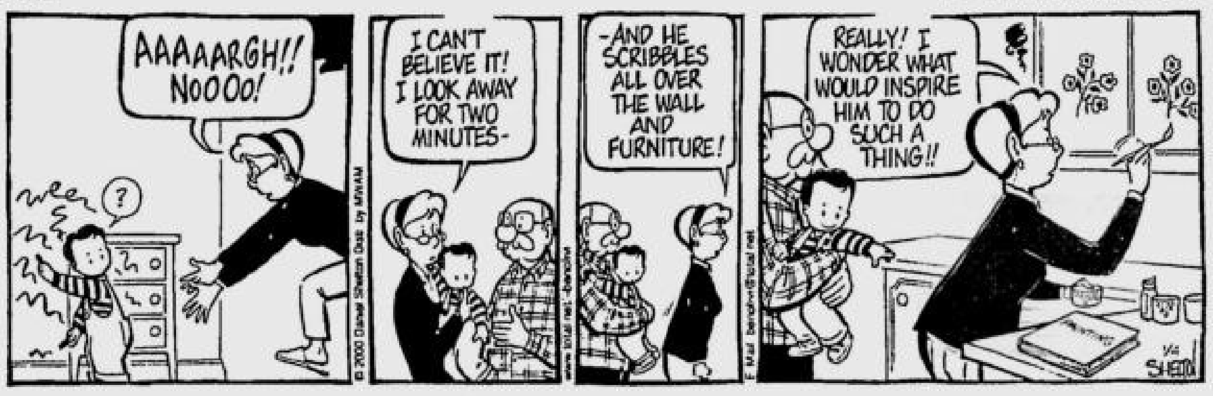
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


ANO KAYA KUNG SI MANANG BOLA AY SUMALI SA "WHO WANTS TO BE A MILYONARYO?"
CAN I ASK THE
AUDIENCE?
NO... THE "PERLAS NA BILOG"?
HMMM...
JOHN PAUL CUISON 01

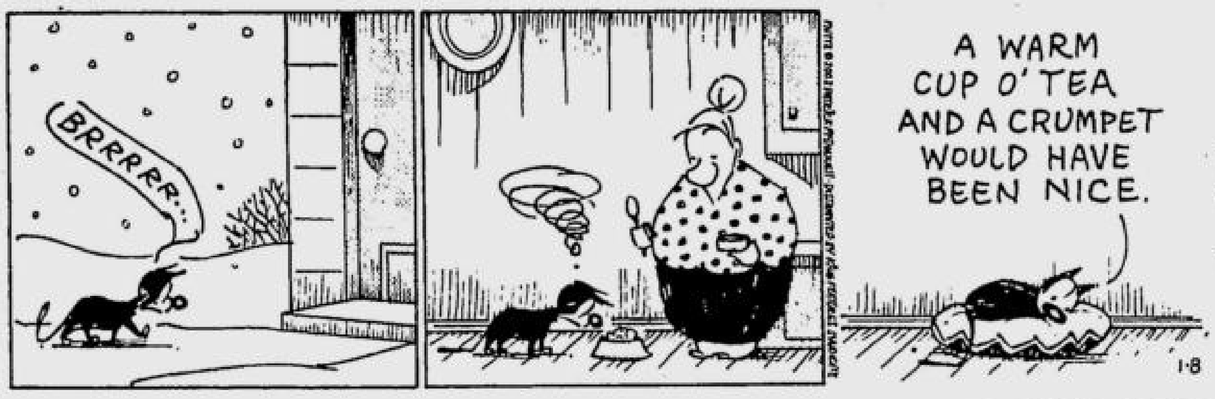
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AAAAARGH!! NOOOO!
?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I LOOK AWAY FOR TWO MINUTES-
-AND HE SCRIBBLES ALL OVER THE WALL AND FURNITURE!
REALLY! I WONDER WHAT WOULD INSPIRE HIM TO DO SUCH A THING!!
SHELTON

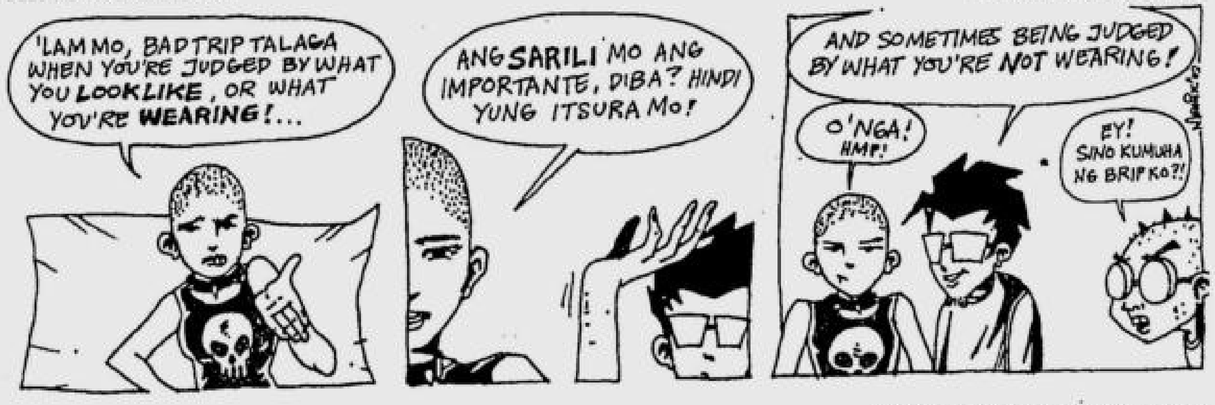
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BRRRRRR...
A WARM CUP O' TEA AND A CRUMPET WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE.
1·8

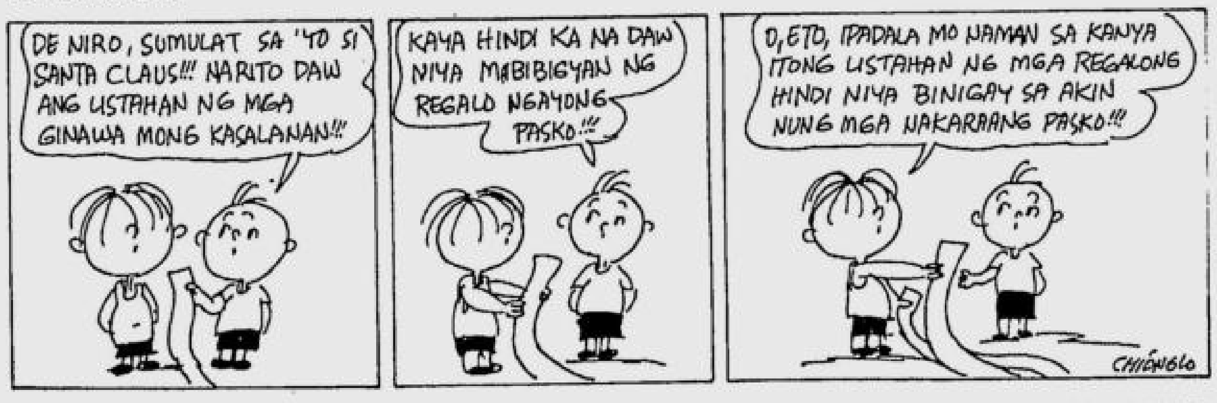
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


'LAM MO, BADTRIP TALAGA WHEN YOU'RE JUDGED BY WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE, OR WHAT YOU'RE WEARING!...
ANG SARILI MO ANG IMPORTANTE, DIBA? HINDI YUNG ITSURA MO!
AND SOMETIMES BEING JUDGED BY WHAT YOU'RE NOT WEARING!
O'NGA! HMF!
EY! SINO KUMUHA NG BRIP KO?!

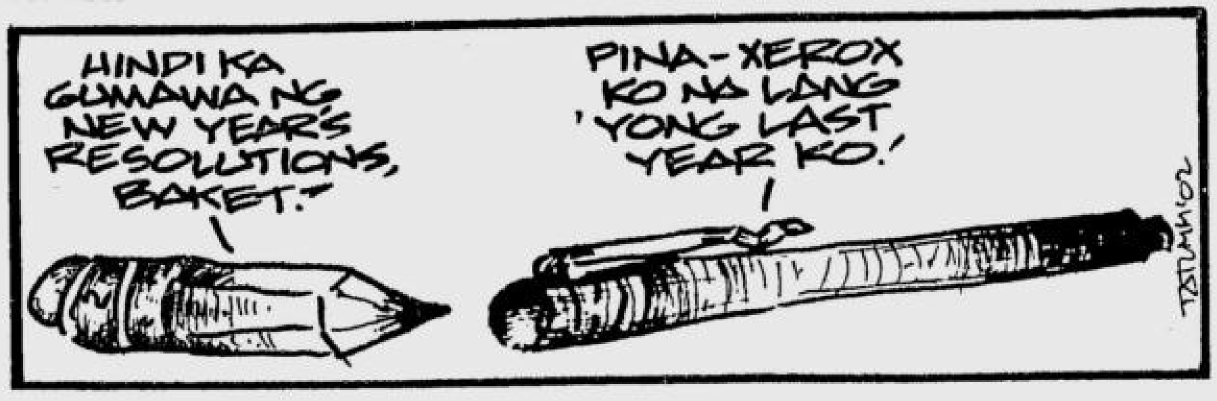
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, SUMULAT SA 'YO SI SANTA CLAUS!!! NARITO DAW ANG LISTAHAN NG MGA GINAWA MONG KASALANAN!!!
KAYA HINDI KA NA DAW NIYA MABIBIGYAN NG REGALO NGAYONG PASKO!!!
O, ETO, IPADALA MO NAMAN SA KANYA ITONG LISTAHAN NG MGA REGALONG HINDI NIYA BINIGAY SA AKIN NUNG MGA NAKARAANG PASKO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


HINDI KA GUMAWA NG NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, BAKET?
PINA-XEROX KO NA LANG 'YONG LAST YEAR KO.
TATUM '02

How not to be a gym dropout

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

JANUARY is the busiest month for gyms all over the world because of the New Year's resolution phenomenon. Unfortunately, many people who enroll in a gym so enthusiastically in January are conspicuously absent a few months later. The main reason is that changing a physically inactive lifestyle into an active one is never easy but another major reason is that people rush into enrolling at a gym without really considering several crucial factors that can spell the difference between becoming a gym regular and a gym dropout.

Budget

Can you afford the gym that you are intending to enroll in? If you can, make sure that it will really give you value for your money. Even if the gym has the cheapest rates in town but has poorly trained instructors, machines that are always out of order and dirty bathrooms, it won't be long before you realize that it just isn't worth it. On the other hand, if you choose a gym that has excellent facilities and service but is a tad high for your budget, there might be a tug-of-war every month between wanting to continue exercising there and wanting to quit because it is draining your pocket. Unless fitness is a top priority in your life, your pocket will usually win out.

Location

For exercise to be effective, it has to be done at least three times a week. So the location of the gym you choose is very important. Ideally, it should not be more than 15 minutes away from your home or office. Parking is another issue to seriously think about. If you have to fight tooth-and-nail for a parking spot every time you go to the gym, your initial enthusiasm will quickly fade. After all, no wants that kind of aggravation three to five times a week. It's not like going to your hairdresser or to your favorite restaurant since going to these places will probably only happen once or twice a month so searching for a parking slot is not that irritating.

> Many factors could spell the difference between becoming a gym regular and a dropout: budget, location, schedule, gym personality, instructors, social support, unrealistic expectations

Schedule

Can you realistically fit your gym workouts into your weekly schedule? I know many people who enroll without really giving this issue some serious thought. No wonder so many people just drop out after a few months, some even after a few weeks. It is better to consistently exercise at the same time so that the exercise habit will really become a part of your lifestyle. It takes a very dedicated and committed exerciser to work out at different times a week.

Another thing to consider is how crowded the gym will be when you go there. "Peak time" in most gyms is before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. because this is the only time that working people have to exercise. If these are the only times you can work out but hordes of sweaty people are something you cannot tolerate, enrolling at a gym might not be the best exercise plan for you.

Gym personality

Gyms are just like people. They have their own personality. Some are quiet and sedate; others are loud and animated. Some are family-oriented; others are geared for the single set. Just like a marriage, there is a greater chance of success if both parties are compatible. This doesn't mean that an older person would automatically not enjoy going to a gym that is dominated by young people (some "oldies" are young at heart) but most often the cliché that "birds of the same feather flock together" is true.

Take note though that gyms can have split personalities. The midmorning atmosphere might be very different from the late afternoon because the kinds of people who exercise at those times are the ones who set the mood. In fact, if you visit a gym at various times of the day it might seem like you are in a totally different gym. Choose a gym that best suits your personality to give you less chances of becoming a gym dropout statistic.

Instructors

Fitness trainers can be a deciding factor in whether you will still be exercising at the end of the year. Most people don't know how to exercise properly and need guidance in designing an exercise program appropriate for them. Professional advice is even more important if you have any kind of special condition that might be aggravated by the wrong kind of exercise. Examples are diabetes, hypertension, asthma, arthritis, pregnancy, etc. You need all the motivation you can get to continue exercising so trainers who are friendly, pleasant and concerned can be a big help in preventing you from dropping out. Trainers can also help you battle boredom by making changes in your exercise program to keep you challenged and stimulated.

Social support

Friends or family members who exercise together have a much greater chance of sticking it out because they are accountable to each other. When one of the workout buddies doesn't feel like exercising, the other will usually save the day. It's difficult to maintain interest in an exercise program when you are by your lonesome.

Unrealistic expectations

Sometimes gyms shoot themselves in the foot and actually help people drop out because their advertising is so unrealistic. People join because they think they will look like the models in the ads in no time at all and with a minimum of effort. When they realize a few months later that they are not going to become Mr. or Ms Body Beautiful that easily, they get discouraged and quit.

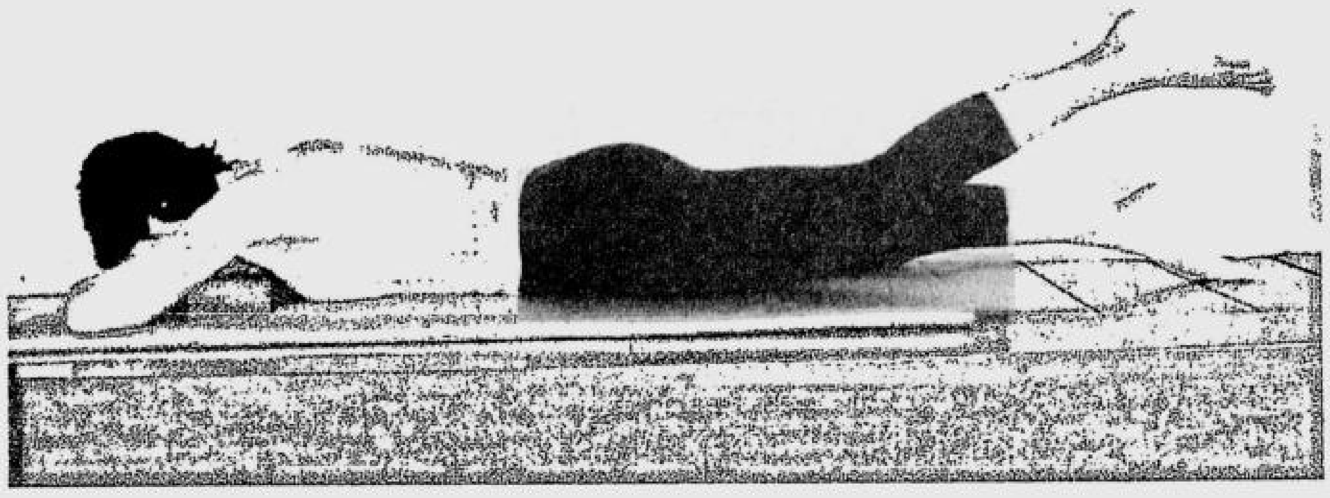
It is vital that you be realistic about what joining a gym can do for you if you don't want to be a gym dropout. Gyms provide the location, equipment, staff and know-how to make you succeed in your fitness goals, but they cannot replace your lifestyle habits outside of the gym. A good example is the goal of losing weight. If you continue to eat excessive amounts of food or drink a lot of alcohol, not even the best gym in the world will help you lose weight.

For questions or past articles and exercises, visit www.tinajuanfitness.com

---

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Prone hip extension



STRENGTHENS the buttocks and the hamstrings (back of the thighs).

Equipment:

Exercise mat, ankle weights or rubber band (optional)

Exercise technique:

1. Lie face down (prone) with your hands underneath your forehead.
2. Lift your right leg a few inches off the floor and lower it down.
3. Do the desired number of repetitions, then do the other leg.

Performance tips:

1. Contract the muscles in your buttocks and hamstrings before you lift your leg.
2. Avoid lifting your leg more than a few inches, or you will strain your lower back.
3. Gently pull your bellybutton toward your spine as you lift your leg to stabilize your torso.
4. If this exercise bothers your lower back, try putting your hands underneath your abdomen. If it still bothers you, avoid this exercise.

Repetitions:

Do 15 repetitions per leg. Do 1-2 sets.

New cure for male pattern hair loss

BY CHAT ALEJANDRO
Contributor

FINASTERIDE
HAIR-LOSS

HAIR loss has been the focus of many jokes. It can have psychological and social consequences. The negative psychological effects of baldness are predictable in a society that gives so much importance to the young and attractive, and these are supported by scientific researches.

In an experiment, researchers illustrated that based on photographs alone, men with male pattern hair loss (MPHL) made a less favorable impression than men who are blessed with fine hair. In that study, men and women were shown pictures of bald men and those with hair, who were of the same age and race. The men and women who looked at the pictures thought that the men with hair loss were older and less attractive. The men with less hair also were thought to be weaker, less likely to succeed and less friendly.

Other studies have shown that hair-loss sufferers themselves sometimes share such negative perceptions. In a 1992 survey by US researchers of more than 100 men with moderate-to-heavy hair loss, the latter reported a range of negative social and emotional effects, from self-conscious preoccupation with their condition to dissatisfaction with their overall body image. The study also revealed that hair loss can cause stress and worry among men who started losing their hair at an early age, and who were romantically unattached.

Quest for treatment

In ancient Egypt, men who were losing hair rubbed their scalps with animal fats and other potions in hopes of growing hair. They even wore elaborate wigs. In 4000 BC, Hippocrates, the father of medicine, attempted to cure his hair loss with a mixture of contained opium, horseradish and pigeon droppings.

The quest for abundant locks also included strange strategies such as standing on one's head to improve blood flow to the scalp, massaging the scalp with mild electrical currents and sipping tea brewed from maidenhair fern.

Vitamins—taken internally or applied topically—is the subject of many unproven claims for "nourishing" hair, scalp or follicles back to health. It's true that a diet that has the right amount of protein, vitamins and minerals is vital for healthy hair, skin and nails. But hair is biologically inactive once it comes out of the follicle and breaks through the scalp. Therefore even if applying vitamins or any substance to the hair or scalp may cause a temporary and superficial change in texture or appearance, it has no effect on the hair-loss process.

Other so-called "treatments" include specialized shampoos and conditioners that penetrate into the top layer of the hair shaft, giving a thicker look, and cosmetic efforts such as hairpieces or toupees that try to conceal the problem. Hair weaves can look and feel close to the real thing, but must be done by a qualified professional.

A more invasive choice for those determined not to live the rest of their lives being bald is hair restoration surgery. But one has to consult a dermatologist.

In the mid-1980s, minoxidil became the first medically proven external remedy for hair loss. Minoxidil was first used in the treatment of high blood pressure. When applied to the scalp as a lotion at a recommended frequency for several months, minoxidil causes noticeable hair regrowth about 20-40 percent of the time. Scientists do not fully understand how minoxidil works but they speculate that the drug may increase scalp blood flow by dilating minute blood vessels. It may also prolong the growing phase of the hair growth cycle.

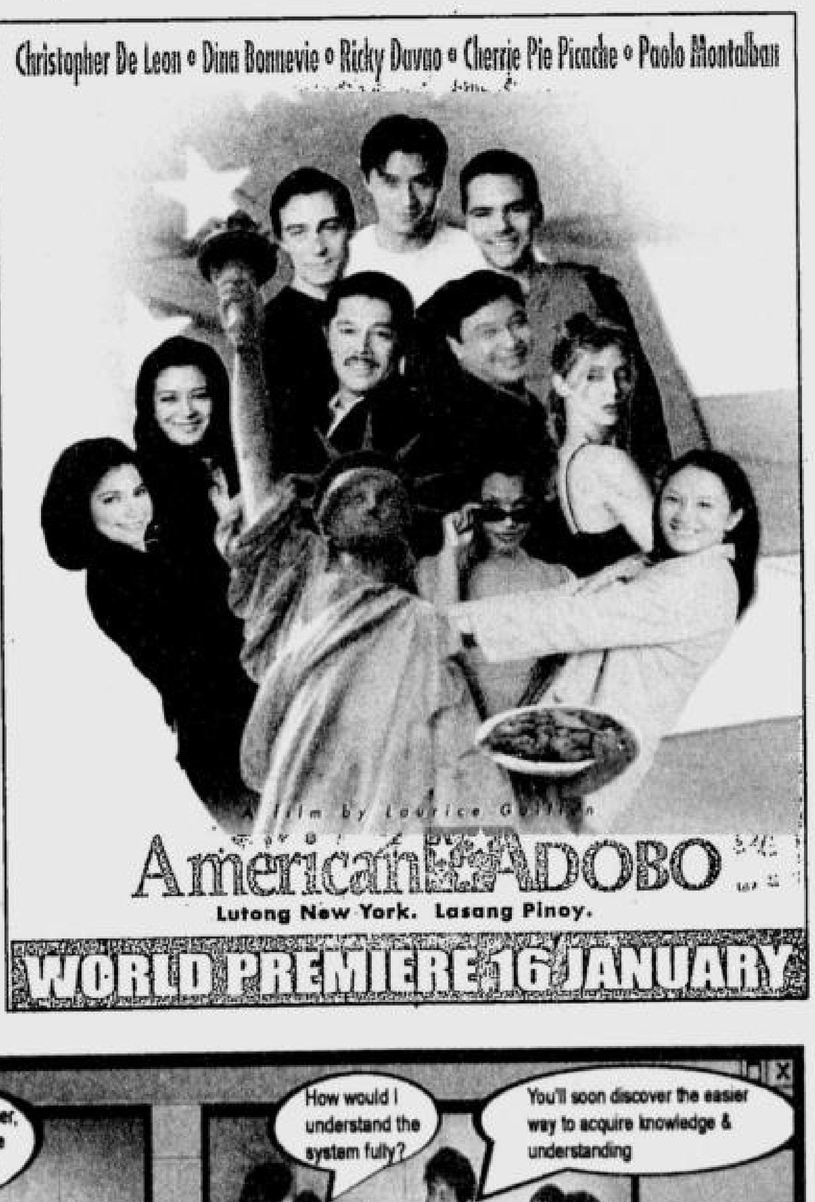
Good news

Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) Phils., one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the world, recently introduced to the Philippines a new dose of finasteride, making finasteride available for MPHL. An appropriate dose of finasteride was clinically proven to prevent further hair loss and increase hair growth. Finasteride is recommended for men only.

MPHL is an inherited condition caused by a genetically determined sensitivity to the effects of a naturally occurring compound called dihydrotestosterone (DHT), and by increased levels of DHT, which affect the hair growth cycle adversely.

DHT contributes to shortening of the growing phase of hair, progressive miniaturization of hair follicles and a lessening in the number of terminal hairs.

Finasteride for MPHL works by preventing an enzyme involved in the production of DHT. By inhibiting the enzyme's pathway, finasteride for MPHL helps prevent follicle shrinkage and results in prevention of hair loss.



Christopher De Leon • Dina Bonnevie • Ricky Davao • Cherrie Pie Picache • Paolo Montalban
A film by Laurice Guillen
American ADOBO
Lutong New York. Lasang Pinoy.
WORLD PREMIERE 16 JANUARY

BUGOY
to Rise-eCommerce Systems - Microsoft Internet E
Aren't we just lucky to have Rise to take care of us? They make access easy for us
Oh really, now?
Yes, when you're already a subscriber, you don't have to go to a RISE office to answer your questions about the system?
How would I understand the system fully?
You'll soon discover the easier way to acquire knowledge & understanding
Go
Links
Suites 1603 & 1906 Robinsons Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave.Ortigas Complex, Quezon City Tel no.:687-0941/687-1737 RISE e-COMMERCE SYSTEMS INC.

Better–and easier–than aerobics

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MOST Filipinos know that they have to exercise to live a long and healthy life. But once they go to an aerobics class, many drop out after one or two sessions.

The reason? Many find aerobics classes too difficult to follow. More so for beginners.

So Reebok comes up with a core training program, the latest fitness rage in the United States designed to give everybody—from beginners to experts—a complete workout. No dancing skills required. In fact, even American football teams go through the Reebok core training program as part of their workout.

The Reebok core training program is a dynamic strength and conditioning program that focuses on developing total body power by emphasizing the "core" muscles such as legs, abdominals and back.

The core muscles or "central zone" is the body's fundamental muscle for balance, posture and overall strength. When strengthened and conditioned, it can improve functional strength for all types of activities.

Essential to the program is the Reebok Core Board, the exercise board offering three-dimensional action that tilts, twists and recoils with the body's movement.

The board's instability forces the user to adjust, hold a position and balance the whole body, making you work harder and "fire" your inner core muscle strength.

The core training's approach has shifted to focusing on the "quality" of movement, not quantity. It also helps firm muscles, increase power, build strength, decrease risk of injury and increase cardiovascular and athletic training.

THE REEBOK core training program emphasizes quality, not quantity, of movement.

The program is divided into five parts. The first part of the program is the power Zen warm-up where participants slowly stretch their muscles and go through breathing exercises.

Then comes the warm-up for core muscles, which includes squats, lunges and tai chi squats, and finally, the sports training where core muscles run through the gauntlet, so to speak, because of the boxing and sprint exercises.

The pace steps up with power squats and power jumps before going for abdominal exercises as part of the cool down program.

"The entire exercise lasts about 45 minutes," says Bernie Durkin, general manager of the Clark Hatch Fitness Centers, which will exclusively feature the Reebok core training program.

"The good thing about it is that beginners can get right to it because they are taken slowly through the program. They don't need to have the coordination of a dancer to get the most out of the program. It can also be enjoyed by both men and women," Durkin says.

Comfortable and stylish workout gear

THERE'S no denying the fact that to remain competitive in today's world, one must not only have sufficient talent and skill but more importantly, a sound body. This is why more people have turned to gyms to tone their physiques so they can cope with the demands of today's modern living.

A very popular gym frequented by fitness-conscious individuals is Slimmers World, which is known for its high-quality programs, complete line of fitness equipment and expert fitness trainers. And to help its fitness trainers carry out their tasks more effectively and comfortably, Slimmers World provides them with LA Gear footwear and apparel.

According to Gina Katigbak, Slimmers World's manpower training and development director, wearing the right outfit when working out is very essential. "Attire is always important, especially for women," she says. "We need upper body support particularly when we're running, jogging or doing aerobics. It's always important to feel comfortable and to look good when working out."

Robert Barranda, Slimmers World fitness technical training manager, echoes Katigbak's sentiments. "Wearing the proper attire is very important because it offers comfort, breathability and support especially for the ladies. People should know that their outfits don't just have to look good, they should also be functional. Just like LA Gear's products."

Katigbak herself is a certified aerobics instructor and so she doesn't just work behind the desk all the time. She's also responsible for the training of all aerobics instructors and for her, choosing LA Gear over other popular brands was a logical decision.

"LA Gear products are really comfortable and stylish, they go well with anything. It makes me feel and look good when I'm working out. It's really designed to give proper support to women when they exercise. They have a very good women's line that caters to a woman's needs and workout requirements. And being a mother, I'm happy that LA Gear also has a line devoted to children."

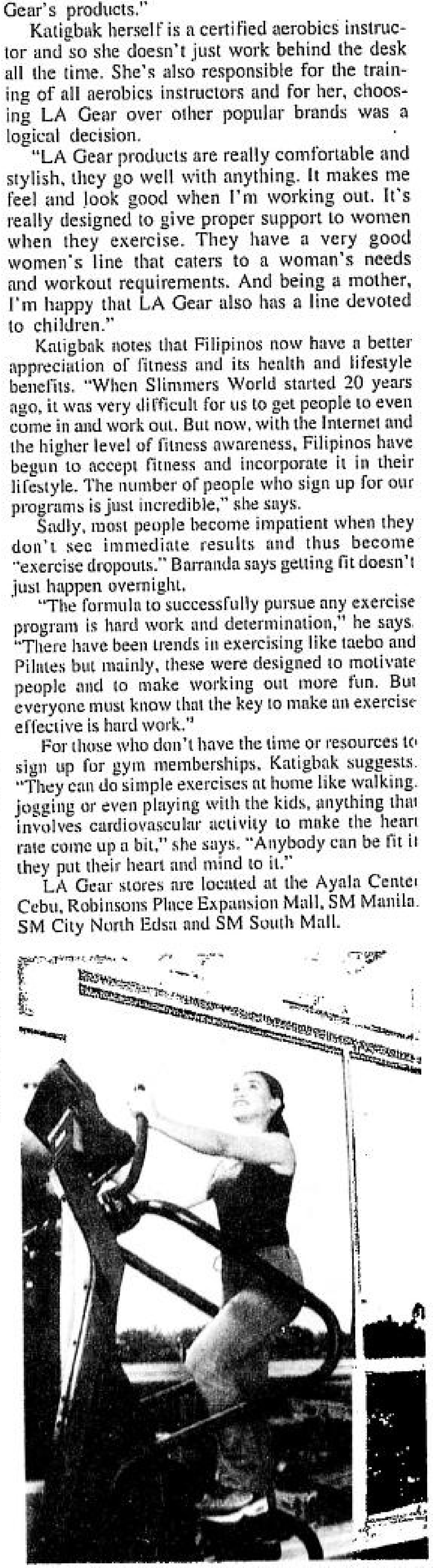
Katigbak notes that Filipinos now have a better appreciation of fitness and its health and lifestyle benefits. "When Slimmers World started 20 years ago, it was very difficult for us to get people to even come in and work out. But now, with the Internet and the higher level of fitness awareness, Filipinos have begun to accept fitness and incorporate it in their lifestyle. The number of people who sign up for our programs is just incredible," she says.

Sadly, most people become impatient when they don't see immediate results and thus become "exercise dropouts." Barranda says getting fit doesn't just happen overnight.

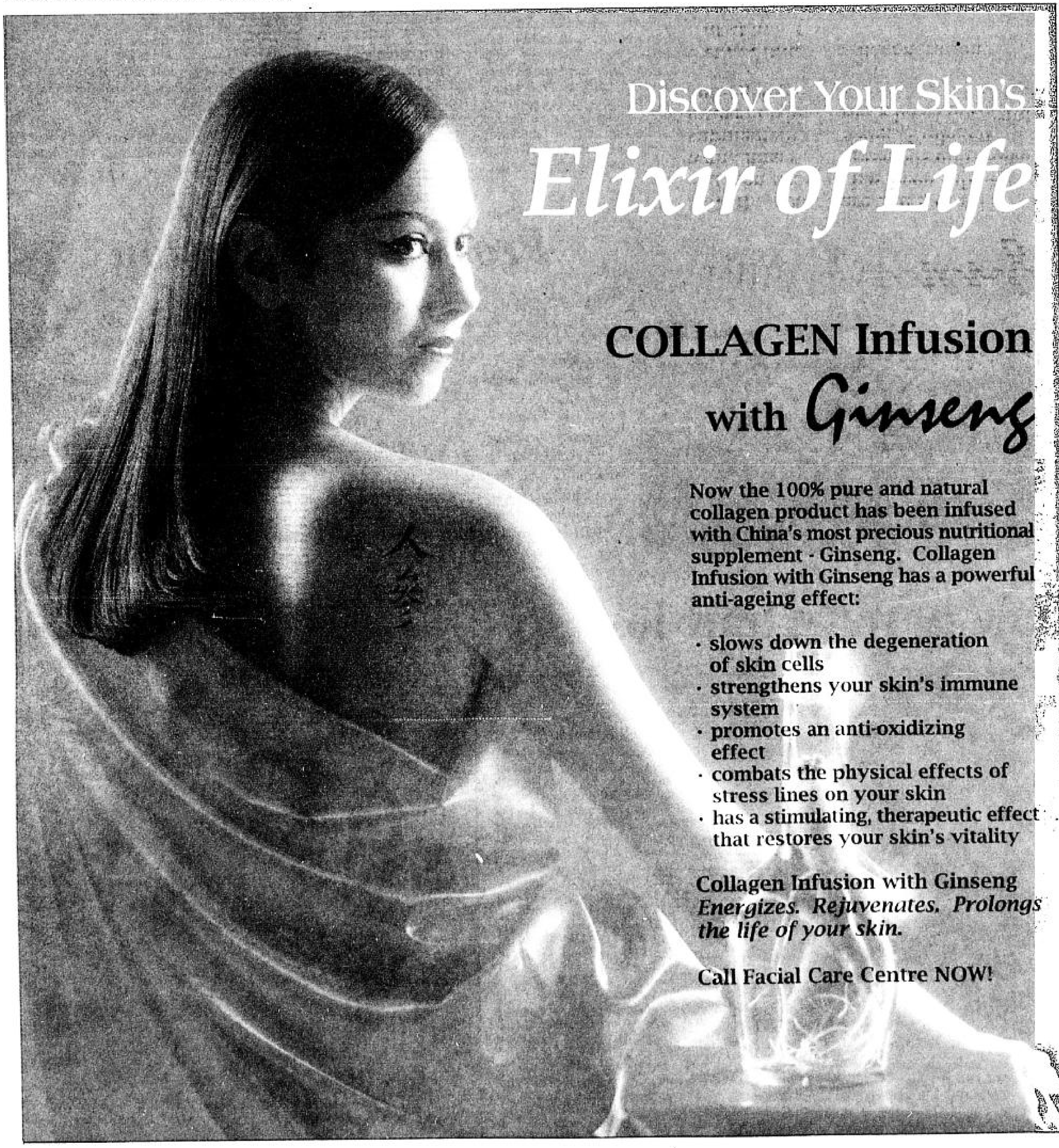
"The formula to successfully pursue any exercise program is hard work and determination," he says. "There have been trends in exercising like taebo and Pilates but mainly, these were designed to motivate people and to make working out more fun. But everyone must know that the key to make an exercise effective is hard work."

For those who don't have the time or resources to sign up for gym memberships, Katigbak suggests. "They can do simple exercises at home like walking, jogging or even playing with the kids, anything that involves cardiovascular activity to make the heart rate come up a bit," she says. "Anybody can be fit if they put their heart and mind to it."

LA Gear stores are located at the Ayala Center Cebu, Robinsons Place Expansion Mall, SM Manila, SM City North Edsa and SM South Mall.



PROPER and stylish gear is a boost to work out.



Discover Your Skin's
Elixir of Life

COLLAGEN Infusion
with Ginseng

Now the 100% pure and natural collagen product has been infused with China's most precious nutritional supplement - Ginseng. Collagen Infusion with Ginseng has a powerful anti-ageing effect:

- slows down the degeneration of skin cells
- strengthens your skin's immune system
- promotes an anti-oxidizing effect
- combats the physical effects of stress lines on your skin
- has a stimulating, therapeutic effect that restores your skin's vitality

Collagen Infusion with Ginseng *Energizes. Rejuvenates. Prolongs the life of your skin.*

Call Facial Care Centre NOW!

Facial care centre
Where Beautiful Skin Happens

NOW OPEN

MAKATI	ORTIGAS	QUEZON CITY	SHAW	ALABANG	BINONDO	CONGRESSIONAL	PAMPANGA	CEBU
817-3323	687-2196	372-6633	534-7701/02	842-1144	243-8138/39	920-7938	961-3404/08	233-7631
812-6080/81	687-2197	372-6634	717-0076	809-9583 / 850-4577	243-8602 / 243-9895	920-7992 / 920-8064	860-2663/64	233-7633/35
Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	631-3007 • 631-3045 Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	410-3709 • 410-3710 Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	City Plaza Tower, Plaza del Conde St.	Q Plaza Congressional Avenue	Dan's Marketing Bldg., Mc Arthur Highway, San Fernando	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

ALL CENTERS ARE NOW OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SAT. (8 AM - 5 PM) / SUN. (10 AM - 3 PM)